# STARS STRIPES.





**Army revamps** courses for officers looking to advance



**48th Fighter Wing** airmen deploving to Middle East

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 2005

# **Army Reserve chief says** force becoming 'broken'

Memo warns policies hurt mission in Afghanistan, Iraq Page 5



#### STARS STRIPES. COMING SOON



Scene on Sunday

Evangeline Lilly gets 'Lost'



Powder play: Check out ski toys

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## ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

#### World

U.S. Embassy bomb plot: Two of six men accused of plotting to bomb the U.S. Embassy in Paris denied on Wednesday that they had links to an al-

leged al-Qaida leader Djamel Beghal, the plot's suspected ringleader, and five other suspects went on trial this week on charges of criminal association with a terrorist enterprise. All six deny the

Ukraine election: The Supreme Court on Thursday rejected losing presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovych's appeal of last month's presidential revote.

The three-judge panel threw out his ap peal, which alleged massive fraud and asked the court to invalidate voting in all of Ukraine's 225 electoral districts. The panel

did not immediately explain its ruling.

The appeal was a bid to overturn the Central Election Commission's unanimous refusal last week to consider a similar complaint.

Yanukovych, who still has one more chance to overturn the election results, has said openly he had little hope of success, but has vowed to fight on against the Dec. 26 vote, which preliminary results show Yushchenko winning

ian rock star death: A U.S. Marine who left Romania after being involved in a Dec. 3 fatal auto accident in Bucharest while serving as a member of the U.S. Embassy security detail there, is still working at his battalion headquarters in Quantico, The case is still under investigation, a Marine spokesman said. Staff Sgt. Christopher R. VanGoethem,

who was commander of the embassy's security detachment at the time, was taken out of Romania within a day after the accident that killed Teofil Peter, a popular Romanian musician

The Romanian government asked the Untied States to waive VanGoethem's immunity and return him to Bucharest to be ques-

tioned But on Thursday, State Department spokesman Lou Fintor said it was premature to consider the request until the investigation by Naval Criminal Investigative Ser-

#### War on terrorism

Padilla trial challenge: Attorneys defending an American accused of participating in an al-Oaida plot to set off a "dirty bomb" have issued a challenge to federal prosecutors: prove it or free him.

Jose Padilla's attorneys on Wednesday asked U.S. District Judge Henry Floyd to hear their writ of habeas corpus, a petition that allows a civilian judge to consider their case. Padilla was not present.

Padilla was arrested at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport in 2002 after returning from Pakistan. The federal government has said he received weapons and explosives

Cause of derailment: A charred freight car, with smoke rising from it, is towed out of the Howard Street tunnel on July 19, 2001, in Baltimore. A CSX freight train carrying hazardous material derailed in the tunnel a day earlier, causing billowing black smoke to fill the downtown area of the city. Poor record-keeping by Baltimore and CSX Corp. plus lack of communication between the city and the railroad aggravated a dangerous situation when the train derailed, the National

Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday. training from members of al-Qaida.

#### Business

WorldCom lawsuit: Ten former World-Com board members have tentatively agreed to pay \$54 million, a third of it from their own pockets, to settle their portion of a lawsuit brought over the company's collapse, according to published reports Thursday.

The outside directors agreed in principle to pay \$18 million of their own money, with the remaining \$36 million to be paid by the directors' liability insurers, The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported. The class-action suit was brought by investors who lost billions when WorldCom went under in a multibillion-dollar accounting scandal.

US Airways financial troubles: A bankruptcy judge on Thursday canceled a collective bargaining agreement between US Airways and its machinists union, providing millions of dollars in annual savings that the airline says will prevent the need for imminent liquidation

The termination of the contract with the International Association of Machinists would result in pay cuts for union workers ranging from 6 percent to 35 percent and the loss of thousands of union jobs.

N.H. murder case: Pamela Smart, the key figure in New Hampshire's most publicized murder trial, is asking for a pardon.

Smart, 37, was convicted in 1991 of persuading her teenage lover and his friends to murder her husband. Four teens, including one who admitted pulling the trigger, testi fied against her in a trial that was televised live around the state, and prompted several books and a movie.

In a pardon request filed last week with the attorney general's office, Smart repeats her arguments that she didn't get a fair trial because of all the media attention and her sentence was too harsh.

Spector trial transcripts: A California appeals court has denied a request by attorneys for famed rock music producer Phil Spector to keep grand jury transcripts in his murder case sealed.

The 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles issued a one-line judgment Wednesday denying the petition and upholding a Superior Court judge's ruling in November that the transcripts should be released.

Superior Court Judge Larry Paul Fidler said Spector's lawyers failed to show how releasing the documents would prevent a fair jury from being chosen for the trial.

Michael Jackson trial: A comedy club owner who is a witness in the Michael Jackson molestation case held a news conference in Los Angeles to accuse the singer's defense team of harassing him.

As soon as he wrapped up his remarks Wednesday, he was served with a fresh defense subpoena.

Jamie Masada, who owns the Laugh Factory in Hollywood, introduced Jackson to the boy who is accusing the pop star of molestation. The boy had participated in Masada's comedy camp for underprivileged children and was battling cancer when Jackson met him at Masada's urging.

Space station problems: The space station crew is spending the new year dealing with an old problem: a broken oxygen generator

The primary machine for producing oxy-gen aboard the international space station stopped working again Saturday. The cabin atmosphere was replenished Tuesday with oxygen from the supply ship that arrived on Christmas Day with much-needed food.

Cosmonaut Salizhan Sharipov and astronaut Leroy Chiao spent most of Wednesday trying to fix the Russian-built oxygen generator. The latest problem appears to be similar to what crippled the system last year. From staff and wire reports

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#### Clarification

vice is finished.

A story in Thursday's edition about a V Corps Web site www.vcorps.army.mil/memory/memory.htm — contained inaccurate information. Mike Hurst is an employee for the Hohenfels, Germany-based, Northrop Grumman Information Technology.

New Year... New Car





Correction

APPLY TODAY!



A story in Wednesday's edition about Department of Defense

employees needing a Status of Forces Agreement stamp in their passports contained incorrect information. Civilians need to fill out Form AE 600-77A.

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## Lakenheath airmen deploying to Mideast

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Strines

RAF LAKENHEATH, England - More than 1 000 airmen from the 48th Fighter Wing have begun deploying to support the ongoing international war on terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

F-15E Strike Eagles from the 494th Fighter Squadron are among those who will deploy, said Brig. Gen. Mark T. Matthews, the wing commander

"January is the heavy month for deploy-ing people out," Matthews said Thursday "We started rotating people out in late December.

The deployed airmen will be stationed in Afghanistan, Iraq and throughout the Central Command area of responsibility, he said. CENTCOM covers 25 nations from the Horn of Africa to the Arabian Gulf region and into Central Asia

part of the four-month rotation cycle for air expeditionary forces, but some have orders for 179 days, he said.

Airmen who deploy longer are typically in higher demand fields, such as security forces, Air Force officials have said

Up to 20,000 Air Force members deploy around the globe in each rotation cycle, according to the Air Force Web site

The 48th's mission will be the typical Air Force fighter mission — providing air support for the troops on the ground.

Matthews said the Jan 30 elections in Iraq would probably generate a lot of trouble from insurgents who oppose a democratic government. He said the area would remain "hot" for the time being

The aircraft could be called upon to support ground offensives or provide an airvovs or patrols

At the same time, the wing is sending aircraft and about 100 people from the 493rd Fighter Squadron to Iceland to maintain an air presence for NATO in the North Atlantic, a mission the Air Force has performed for decades to support the island nation.

That deployment is also a normal four-month rotation

"It's a big chunk of our hide," Matthews said of the departure of so many troops and aircraft. "There will be a noticeable dent in

The deployments will put a strain on troops who remain behind, Matthews said. They will work longer hours and do more

However, he said, it is rare that all three squadrons are together at RAF Laken-

bers are stationed.

"It puts a lot of stress on our people here," he said, "In fact, I worry more about our people here than our people de-

He said the heavy operations tempo facing the Air Force and the rest of the military requires the service learn how to operate garrisons with much of the population denloved

"I think we're still learning as an Air Force how to do that," he said.

Organizations such as the Family Support Center and the 48th Medical Group as well as commanders and senior enlisted leaders, will be on the watch for indicators of excessive stress, such as increases in driving under the influence of alcohol or domestic abuse, he said.

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### Fla. lawmakers make push to keep carrier

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Strines

WASHINGTON - Three Florida members of Congress announced legislation Wednesday to mandate that the Navy keep 12 aircraft carriers in its fleet, a move prompted by Pentagon proposals to decommission the Florida-based USS Kennedy to save money

Sens. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., and Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Rep. Ander Crenshaw, R-Fla., criticized Pentagon officials for considering the proposal, which they say would iconardize national security, as well as financially devastate northern Florida.

"We should be wise enough to recognize that at a time of war, our nation needs 12 carriers," Martinez said. "We all hope there could be such a time when we don't need this kind of defense, but it's not now.

Navy officials refused to comment on the legislation and budget proposal. Navy Secretary Gordon England spoke to all three lawmakers last week to inform them of the Kennedy's proposed shutdown, which could save about \$1.2 billion

Nelson said the USS Kitty Hawk, based in Yokosuka, Japan, is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2008 and its replace ment, the USS George H.W. Bush, is two years behind schedule, and won't be in service until

Crenshaw said that it's one of the smallest savings in the \$30 billion cut in the Pentagon's 2006 budget proposal, but could have the most impact on military readiness. He also criticized the decision to make the cuts in behind-the- scenes budget meetings, rather than leaving the issue for the 2005 Ouadrennial Defense Review process.

"The leadership in the Pentagon is making a short-sighted de-cision prompted by budget

woes," he said. "If you take this carrier out of service, that's an irreversible decision ... that puts us at tremendous strategic risk.'

But Christopher Preble, foreign policy studies director for the Cato Institute and Gulf War Navy veteran, said the usefulness of U.S. carriers against terrorists is limited, since the only obvious concentration of terror-

launch large-scale attacks against was in Afghanistan "For them to make the argument that carriers are essential for the war Proble

on terror is absurd," he said. "There are things that the carrier can do that no other platform can, but you can say that about most of the U.S. military.'

The Kennedy, based at Mayport Naval Station, returned to Florida in December after a six-month mission in the Middle East The carrier has a crew of more than 3,100, and Crenshaw estimates its presence brings about \$250 million annually into the Jacksonville area

The 36-year-old carrier underwent \$350 million in repairs last spring and is scheduled to undergo another \$378 million overhaul later this year.

He also pointed to 2003 and 2002 Navy posture statements, which note that "real-world eynerience and analysis indicate that a carrier force of 15 shins is necessary."

Preble said in the past Congress and the White House have overturned similar defense department cuts, but described the legislation as an unusual pre-emptive move.





or hotels worldwide, such as the Kelley Hotel on Kelley Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany. The 6th Area Support Group, based in Stuttgart, will eliminate smoking rooms from its lodging sites, including at the Armed Forces Recreation Center facilities in Garmisch, by Jan. 31.

#### Army to ban smoking at lodging facilities

BY CHARLIE COON

STUTTGART, Germany Guests at Army lodging facilities who want to smoke will soon have to go outside to do so.

Smoking rooms are being phased out at Army lodging worldwide, and, as of March 1, smoking will not be permitted inside Army hotels or other billeting. The decision was made in November by the Army Morale. Welfare and Recreation's board

"The trend within the Department of Defense was to discourage smoking for health reasons," said Peter Isaacs, chief operating officer for the Army's Community and Family Support Center in Washington, D.C.

"To stay in concert with the larger goals of the department, the board decided it should prohibit smoking [at Army lodg-

The smoking ban applies to hotels and billeting used mostly for official business, such as the Kellev Hotel and Swabian Inn in Stuttgart. It also applies to recreational lodging such as the new Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch.

Guests would be permitted to smoke on their rooms' patio or balcony, or on the garden patios included with some rooms at Army lodging in Hawaii, Isaacs

Smoking has not been permitted at Air Force guest rooms and common areas since 2001, according to Wolfgang R. Hof-mann, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe in Ramstein. Temporary-living facilities. where airmen stay before they find permanent living quarters at their new duty station, are also

The Air Force will soon start charging a standard \$150 cleaning fee for guests who violate lodging rules by smoking in their rooms, Hofmann said. Similar fees are already in place at some Air Force billeting.

In the Navy, 20 percent of bachelors' quarters rooms are set aside for smokers, according to Lt. Allie Freeman, a spokeswoman at Naval Station Rota. Spain.

"There are no plans to change that," Freeman said, as long as the smoking rooms do not have shared ventilation, heating or air conditioning with nonsmoking

She said the Navy Lodge at Rota is completely nonsmoking, but she did not know the smoking policy for Navy lodges world-

The 6th Area Support Group, which includes Stuttgart and Garmisch, announced several weeks ago that its lodging facilities would go smoke-free by Jan.

"We've been discussing for over a vear on how we were going to do it." said Joe Strobel. the 6th ASG's lodging manager. "This is the best season to do it because it's the slow season

Strobel said long-term guests who smoke won't be forced to stop smoking in their rooms on Jan. 31. They can continue smoking in their rooms until they check out.

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## **Army reorganizes courses for promotions**

#### Changes affect those moving up to major, lieutenant colonel

BY RICK EMERT Stars and Strings

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The U.S. Army is revamping two of its classes geared primarily toward captains and majors, affecting courses provided by the 3747th Multi-functional Training Brigade for reserve and active-duty officers in Eu-

The Combined Arms Service Staff School, a requirement for most captains to be promoted to major, is being eliminated. The Command and General Staff Course, required for most majors to be promoted to lieutenant colonel, is switching to the Intermediate Level Education course.

The changes come as the Army Training and Doctrine Command falls in line with the Army's efforts to streamline systems and update technology, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Beard, deputy commander of the 3747th brizade.

"The Officer Education System is in transition," Beard said. "The [Combined Arms Service Staff School] is sort of outdated. With the transition, TRADOC is getting in line with the rest of the transforming Army."

One change, he said, is the addition of scenarios from recent conflicts, such as Iraq and Afghanistan, to the curriculum.

The combined arms course has changed to the Combined Arms Exercise, a 16-day course offered for a limited time to officers who did not attend the Captain's Career Course, Beard said.



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Officers create a graphic of a simulated mission during the Command and General Staff College in June at Grafenwöhr, Germany. The Command and General Staff College has changed to the Intermediate Level Education course, and the former Combined Arms Service Staff School has changed to the Combined Arms Exercise.

Active-duty captains in nonoperational career fields, including some logistics, medical and judge advocate general branches, can attend the course offered by the 5747th Brigade, according to Lt. Col. Gary Cleland, who until recently was the Officer Education System Battalion commander. Operational branches include infantry, artillery and armor, among others.

Information offered in the former combined arms course and the current Combined Arms Exercise is now offered in the Captain's Career Course to lieutenants and junior captains, Beard said.

The new Combined Arms Exercise course will be offered through academic year 2006. Officers in operational branches who don't qualify for it in Europe must have taken the Combined Arms Service Staff School course or have a waiver signed by a colonel or above after receiving credit by serving in a staff position during a deployment, Cleland said.

The Command and General Staff Course

has changed to the Intermediate Level Education course. The 3747th will offer one final phase of the course this year before switching to the intermediate course, Beard said

Traditionally, CGSC was a two-year course. Now, the course is offered over a 13-month period including two, two-week blocks of training and the rest being individual duty training. In Germany, the final Command and General Staff Course will be offered at Grafenwöhr and either Kaiserslautern or Heidelberg for the individual duty phase. The two-week annual training blocks will be conducted only at Grafenwöhr, Beard said.

Instructors from the 3747th attended workshops in order to make the changes to classes offered at Grafenwöhr.

"For every four hours that an instructor spends at the podium, he has to spend up to four hours preparing for the class," Cle-land said. "Our instructors are very professional with a good base of knowledge. It's a lot of work, but they are willing to do it because they realize the benefits to the Army."

The new formats for the classes, including smaller blocks of instruction, allow for any future changes to the courses to be made much more simply, Cleland said.

Although the changes to the officer courses may make things more difficult for instructors and the officers who must take the courses, the changes are necessary, Beard said.

"Technology has always outpaced doctrine. [Training and Doctrine Command is trying to make sure there is no lag between technology and doctrine," he said. "If it didn't evolve like this, we would still be riding horses into combat."

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#### Memorial service honors Rota sailor

BY SCOTT SCHONAUER
Stars and Strines

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Petty Officer 3rd Class Dexter Orasing, an aircraft fuels operator, didn't have the most glamorous job in the Navy.

But if not for the sailor nicknamed "Tiny Tim," and others like him, planes would never have gotten off the ground and troops in places such as Iraq wouldn't have received the supplies and equipment they needed. Orasing often worked behind the scenes, whether it

was in the Navy or at his church. But family and friends who knew him said Thursday that the 27-year-old sailor quietly did his job well, often putting the needs of others ahead of his own.

Orasing, who was stationed at Rota, fell unconscious and died on New Year's Day after attending a party with his wife and friends.

"He was a man who did things that we sometimes the way a man who did things that we sometimes do not have a direct things."

"He was a man who did things that we sometimes don't notice and don't see. ... He was always doing things to serve," said the Rev. Robert Rogers, pastor at the First Baptist Church of Rota.

Family, friends and co-workers remembered Orasing as a dedicated father, loving husband and generous friend during a memorial service Thursday at the base chapel. He leaves behind his wife, Stephanie, and their three children: Shelton, 6, Matthew, 3; and Gabriel, 6 months. He served in the Navy for more than seven years

Orasing, a native of La Trinidad, Benguet, Philippines, grew up in Houston and enlisted in the Navy on Aug. 22, 1997.

Between 1998 and 2000, he served aboard the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, where he received a letter of commendation for "superior performance" as an aviation fuels filter operator. He arrived in Rota in October 2002 and worked as a dispatcher and fuel truck operator.

During his time in Spain, he was part of a team that pumped more than 120 million gallons of fuel to planes — many of them heading to or from the Persian Gulf region.



COTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

Flowers and photos were placed on the chapel altar Thursday at Naval Station Rota, Spain, at a memorial service for Petty Officer 3rd Class Dexter Orasing.

Orasing was known a "Tiny Tim" because he was only 5 foot 2. Friends and co-workers, who also called him "Dex," said Orasing was good for a laugh and would sometimes loan his car to friends who needed wheels.

Orasing is one of three people from the base who died in the past week. Petty Officer 2nd Class Roland Atuwo died on New Year's Day after his car ran off the side of the road near the base. Atuwo, 26, originally from Virgin ia, was a construction electrician with the base's Public

Works Department. He served six years in the Navy.

The base planned a memorial service Friday for Atuwo at the base chapel.

Attiwo at the base chaper.

On Tuesday, Noelia Ruiz Martinez, wife of a U.S. servicemember stationed in Rota, died from injuries suffered in a two-car accident a week ago. Her husband remains hospitalized in Cadiz.

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#### Storm damage cleared, Naples park reopens

BY SANDRA JONTZ Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Most of the recreational facility at Carney Park has been reopened to visitors after violent wind storms Dec. 26 toppled trees, uprooted fences and tore roofing off some facilities.

The trails, cabins, dog park and other recreational facilities typically open this time of year were available to patrons three days later. The park's nine-hole golf course opened the following day.

The storm ripped siding and blew off some roofing off the shared Crater Cantina and the Navy Exchange mini-mart facility. No one was inside the building at the time of the storm. The building is open only during the park's peak season, which runs May through September, said park director Patrick Keaveny. The facility should be repaired in time to open for the

The facility should be repaired in time to open for the summer, he said.

About 11,000 people typically visit the park in December, about one-quarter of the park's visitors during its peak season, he said.

On the feetball field of "2,000 pound bleechon was

On the football field, a "2,000-pound bleacher was picked up and moved about 20 feet," he said. "That gives you an idea of how strong the winds were. We don't know if it was a little tornado that picked up and moved it or if the winds blew it."

Some of the camping cabins also lost roofing, as did the main administrative office building, he said.

About 25 employees were sent home Dec. 27 after the storm for safety concerns because officials didn't know if any weakened trees might fall, he said.

After public works surveyed the park, the employees were allowed to return.

It's too early for Morale Welfare and Recreation officials to provide a cost estimate of damage and repairs, Keaveny said.

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## **General: Reserve can't fulfill war duties**

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The Army Reserve, whose part-time soldiers serve in combat and support roles in Iraq and Afghanistan, is so hampered by misguided Army policies and practices that it is "rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force," the Reserve's most senior

general says. Lt. Gen, James R. Helmly, chief of the Army Reserve, wrote in an internal memorandum to the Army's top uniformed officer that the Reserve has reached the point of being unable to fulfill its missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and to regenerate its forces for future missions.

The Army Reserve has about 200,000 soldiers, nearly 52,000 of them on active duty for the war on terrorism, mainly in Iraq. They provide combat support, medical care, transportation, legal servic-es and other support. About 50 have died in the Iraq war.

Helmly's Dec. 20 memo is ad-dressed to Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, and was first reported in Wednesday's editions of The (Baltimore) Sun whose Web site has a link to the eight-page document. Two officials who saw the original memo confirmed its contents to The As-

#### Helmly's memo says force is becoming 'broken' and blames Army policies on fighting terrorism

sociated Press.

"The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you of the Army Reserve's inability under current policies, procedures and practices



associated with Operation Iragi Freedom Free.

to meet

and Enduring dom," Helmwrote using the military's names

the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"The Army Reserve is additionally in grave danger of being un-

able to meet other operational re-quirements," including those in classified contingency plans for other potential wars or national emergencies, "and is rapidly degenerating into a 'broken' force' Helmly wrote.

The Army Reserve's ability to

regenerate its recently deployed forces is "eroding daily," he added, in part because Reserve troops who finish tours in Iraq and Afghanistan are required to leave substantial amounts of their equipment for other forces and for contractors

Al Schilf, spokesman for Helmly, said the issues raised in the memo "are ones that the general has raised in the past. The Army is working to deal with many of those issues and has addressed several of them, such as tour

"He wouldn't have signed his name to [the memo] if he didn't stand by it."

Helmly also referred to a practice, not previously disclosed, of requiring each Reserve soldier who receives a mobilization order with less than 30 days notice to

sign a "volunteer statement. From his brief description of the practice it appears that this is done to reduce the number of reported cases of short-notice, involntary mobilizations.

He also criticized the practice of offering Reserve soldiers an extra \$1,000 a month if they volunteer to be mobilized a second time. This confuses "volunteers" with "mercenaries." he said.

Helmly's blunt description of these problems is the sort of internal critique that rarely becomes public, although some private defense analysts and members of Congress have openly questioned whether the strains on the Army caused by the Iraq war would eventually threaten the all-volunteer force

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., said Wednesday he was disturbed by the concerns raised in Helmly's memo.

"By consistently underestimat-ing the number of troops necessary for the successful occupation of Iraq, the administration has placed a tremendous burden on the Army Reserve and created this crisis." Reed said.

Col. Joe Curtin, a spokesman at Army headquarters in the Pentagon, said the Army has a group of experts studying a wide range of problems facing not only the Army Reserve but also the Army National Guard.

These issues are largely being

addressed now," Curtin said.
"General Helmly's concerns are of a serious nature, and the Army realizes it has to work very hard and diligently to resolve them, and our intent is to resolve those issues

Since President Bush launched a global war on terrorism after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, about 65,000 Army Reserve soldiers, or about two-thirds of that entire force, have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, according to Pentagon figures. About one-third have deployed more than once.

Among Helmly's other complaints:

■ The Army is relying too heavily on volunteers to mobilize for duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. The most likely to volunteer are "those who often enjoy lesser responsible positions in civilian life," he

■ The Army has failed to use its legal authority to call to active duty those members of the Reserve who have violated their service contract, by missing training or other actions. Helmly said he asked for but was not given the authority to discharge those Reserve members, who number 16,400.

Stripes reporter Leo Shane contributed to this report from Washington.

## Iraq state of emergency extended through election

BY BASSEM MROUE The Associated Press

BAGHDAD - A state of emergency. originally announced two months ago, was extended for 30 days throughout the country except for the Kurdish-run areas north of the country, an Iraqi government statement said. The decree includes a nighttime curfew and gives the government additional power to make arrests and launch

"We expect some escalation [of attacks] here and there" ahead of Jan. 30 elections, Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said.
"This is a precaution to protect the Iraqi people as well as the elections.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, ground forces commander in Iraq, also predicted more violence leading up to the elections and said he couldn't guarantee the safety of all voters

"I can't guarantee that every person in Iraq that wants to vote, goes to a polling booth and can do that safely," Metz told re porters. "We're going to do everything possible to create that condition for them, but we are fighting an enemy who cares less who he kills, when he kills and how he kills."

Meanwhile, the bodies of 18 young Iraqi Shiites killed last month while seeking work at a U.S. hase have been found in a field near Mosul, police said Thursday, as the Iraqi government extended a state of emergency for a month because of violence ahead of landmark elections

Police said the insurgents shot the 18 men, who ranged in age from 14 to 20, execution style on Dec. 8 after stopping their two minibuses about 30 miles west of the volatile city, 225 miles north of Baghdad.

All the men were Shiite Muslims from Raghdad's northern neighborhood of Kadhimiya who had been hired by an Iraqi contractor to work at a U.S. base in Mosul The bodies were discovered Wednesday

A second car bomber killed five Iraqi policemen in Baqouba on Wednesday.

In a statement posted on a Web site



walks past a poster that says 'no for dictatorship, ves for the Iraqi unity and containing an image of the Shiite cleric Grand Avatollah Ali al-Sistani on

Thursday in Baghdad. The country's elections are still scheduled for Ian. 30.

#### U.S. soldier's trial for alleged Iraq prison abuse to begin

FORT HOOD, Texas - An Army reservist seen prominently in the photos of Iraqi prisoners who were suffering sexual humiliation and other brutality at the Abu Ghraib prison goes to trial Friday

Barring last-minute plea deals, Spc. Charles Graner of Uniontown, Pa., will be the first of four soldiers from the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company to be tried for crimes that allegedly occurred in the Baghdad prison in late 2003. Among the soldiers is Pfc. Lynndie England, who in October gave birth to a child

that Army prosecutors claim was the result of an extramarital affair with Graner. Her Fort Hood trial has not yet been scheduled.

Thursday, the al-Qaida in Iraq, led by Jor-danian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, claimed responsibility for both the Hillah and the Bagouba attacks. Meanwhile, as foreign ministers from Irag's neighboring states met in Jordan Thursday, King Abdullah II tried to temper remarks that reflected Arab fears the elections will produce a Shiite Muslim-dominated Iraq that will align itself with Persian Iran.

In an interview published Thursday by Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Rai Al-Aam, the king stressed he was not opposed to Shiites and said his comments that Iran was trying to influence the vote and create "Shiite crescent" had been misinterpreted

Iran — a predominantly Shiite state called the remarks an insult to Iragis.

Police also discovered two beheaded Iraqi policemen, their bodies charred from a fire Thursday in a house in Basra used by election officials to organize the Jan. 30 na-tional vote, a police official said on condition of anonymity.

A Marine belonging to the 1st Marine Exeditionary Force was killed in action Thursday while conducting operations in the Al Anbar province in western Irag.

#### U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,338 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1.053 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military

The AP count is one lower than the Defense Department's tally.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,200 U.S. mili-tary members have died, according to s count. That includes at least 944 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the mili-

A soldier was killed Tuesday when a patrol was attacked in Tal Afar in

northern Iraq The latest identification reported by

the Defense Department:

Army Spc. Craig L. Nelson, 21, Bossier City, La.; died Dec. 29 at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., of injuries sustained Dec. 16 when an explosive detonated near his military vehicle in Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, Shreveport, La.

## Marine accused of desertion missing again

#### Hassoun fails to report for duty; U.S., Lebanon officials have no info on whereabouts

BY SAM F. GHATTAS The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon - The U.S. Embassy said Thursday it could not confirm that a U.S. Marine who has been charged with desertion had fled to Lebanon and the family of the Lebanese-American was out of reach to comment on the second desertion allegation against the Marine in less than a

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun, who vanished in Iraq in June and resurfaced in Beirut two weeks later before returning to the United States to face desertion charges, did not report for duty at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina by a noon deadline on Tuesday.

declared him a deserter, Maj Matt Morgan, a spokesman for the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade, said Wednesday.

Hassoun was in West Jordan, Utah, for about a week in December, Hassoun family spokesman Tarek Nosseir said. Nosseir said he couldn't confirm broadcast reports that Hassoun may have gone to Canada or Lebanon

The U.S. Embassy in Beirut said Thursday it could not con-firm whether Hassoun has returned to his native Lebanon

"We have no confirmation that he's here and we have no further comment," said an Embassy spokesperson who asked not to be named.

family in northern Lebanon were unsuccessful

Security officials in porthern Lebanon,

where Hassoun's family is from, said they have no information on Hassoun possibly returning

the region. One security official in Beirut, speak-

ing on customary condition of anonymity, said Hassoun had been banned from entering Lebanon after he

left the country in July.

Hassoun, a 24-year-old Muslim who has dual Lebanese and American citizenship, was listed as missing in Iraq after he failed to

report for duty June 20. A week later, the Arabic news network Al-Jazeera broadcast a photo of Hassoun blindfolded and with a sword behind his head

One claim said Hassoun was beheaded but later it was retracted.

On July 8. Hassoun contacted U.S. diplomats in Beirut and was taken to the American Embassy where he met his family and was returned to the United States.

How Hassoun ended up in Lebanon remains a mystery. He has made one statement since returning to the United States, saying he was captured and held against

During the assault on Falluiah in November, U.S. troops recovered Hassoun's personal belongings in a box in a commercial

He was charged in December with desertion, theft, loss of government property and wrongful appropriation of a government vehicle. The desertion count carries a five-year maximum prison sentence and the other counts carry 10-year maximum sentences. The corporal's hearing on the Iraq desertion charge had been delayed until Jan. 13 to allow Hassoun to hire a civilian lawver to assist his military attor-

#### Lending a healing hand



Capt. Esther Lazo, a physician assistant with Company C, 225th Forward Support Battlion, checks the breathing pattern of an Iraqi baby during the medical assistance visit at the Al-Ta'meem Health Clinic on Dec. 29. About 40 medical personnel treated more than 160 Iraqis.

#### Closing arguments delayed in alleged drowning

BY ANGELA K. BROWN

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas - Closing arguments were delayed Thurs day in the military trial of a soldier accused in an Iraqi civilian's drowning death because the jury of Army officers said they wanted to hear from more witnesses

Jurors said they wanted to hear witnesses who weren't called to testify in the case, including Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins. He's being tried on charges of involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators He faces a sentence ranging from nothing to 26 years if convicted. The judge, Col. Gregory Gross,

said he would research the jurors request and resume arguments later in the day. Gross rejected the jury's request for documents from previous court hearings in the case and other witness statements. In a court-martial, jurors are allowed to submit questions for witnesses

Jurors also wanted to hear from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville. but the judge said that would not happen. Saville is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins - as well as a conspiracy charge. Saville faces a maximum sentence of 29 years in prison.

An Iraqi civilian testified Wednesday that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Samarra with a delivery of

plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the cold Tigris River as U.S. soldiers laughed

Marwan Fadel Hassoun said he tried to save his 19-year-old cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun Fadel Hassoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later.

Three soldiers called by the defense testified Wednesday that were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iragis on the river bank after the incident.

Under cross-examination, two of the soldiers said they did not reveal that information until last summer because Army investigators, convinced that an Iraqi had died, had intimidated them

### U.S. military looks into Gitmo abuse allegations

By Paisley Dodds The Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — Investigators will look into allegations of prisoner abuse at Guantanamo Bay described in recently released FBI documents, authorities said, as a new batch of FBI memos was re-

The U.S. Southern Command in Miami assigned Army Brig. Gen John T. Furlow to lead the investigation, which could begin as early as this week. The military main tains that most incidents detailed in the FRI memos occurred in 2002 when the prison was just opening, and that some of the inerrogation techniques labeled as

"aggressive" are no longer in use.

Documents published last month show FBI agents warned the government about abuse and mistreatment when the first prisoners arrived, more than a year before a scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. One letter, written by a senior U.S. Justice Department official, suggested the Pentagon failed to act on the FBI com-

"It will be fully investigated," Guantanamo's commanding Army Brig. Gen. Jay Hood said Wednesday, adding that recent articles about allegations have skewed the public's understanding about the mission and the troops' commitment to strict standards.

'Part of that skenticism has occurred because of how ugly Abu Ghraib was," Hood said. "I don't know of anybody wearing uniform who has not, to one degree or another, been sickened by the photos we've all seen. On the other hand, to allege that the 2.000 Americans working here are conspiring in an effort to abuse or torture the men under our charge is foolishness.

He said the independent military team was necessary to find and interview people who had left the remote outpost and were no longer under his command.

#### Report: Army doctors aided in prison abuse

The Washington Post

Army doctors violated the Geneva Conventions by helping intelligence officers carry out abusive interrogations at military detention centers, per-haps participating in torture, according to a report in Thursday's edition of the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine.

Medical personnel helped tailor interrogations to the physical and mental conditions of individual detainees at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq and the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the report claims. It says medical workers gave interrogators access to patient medical files and that psychiatrists and other physicians collaborated with interrogators and guards who, in turn deprived detainees of sleep, restricted them to diets of bread and water and exposed them to extremes of heat and cold.

The small team of investigators, including an attorney, will report their findings to the Southern Command's Army Gen. Bantz J. Craddock in February.

The American Civil Liberties Union last month released e-mails obtained under the Freedom of Information Act in which the FBI accused interrogators of inserting lit cigarettes in prisoners' ears and shackling them into a fetal positions for hours, forcing them to soil themselves.

Associated Press writers Curt Anderson in Washington and Frank Griffiths in San Juan, Puerto Rico, contributed to this



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#### Talking politics in Iraq



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY/AP

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., talks with soldiers at Camp Al Tahreer in Baghdad on Wednesday. During his visit, Kerry discussed sports, the presidential election and the state of the war in Iraq. From left: Spc. Michael Foly, 356th Engineer Battalion; Pfc. Kevin Cole, 356th Engineer Battalion: Spc. Michelle Lacourse. 126th Aviation Battalion: and Sgt. Raymond Hegarty, 356th Engineer Battalion.

#### Warning from Army spells end of war blog

have ordered.

ues ORDERED.

me to shut

down

this website.

Hospital unit in a message

Maj. Michael Cohen

67th Combat Support

Doctor with the

on his Web site

PHILADELPHIA - A military doctor whose Web site chronicled the bloody aftermath of the suicide bombing of a dining tent in Iraq has shut down the site after being told his postings violated Army regula-

tions In an e-mail from **44** Levels above me Iraq on Tuesday, Michael Cohen, a doctor with the 67th Combat Support Hospital unit, said he received a written warning but was not told which regulations Army were being violat-

ed A short notice replaced the account Cohen's site, on www.67csh-

docs.com.

"Levels above me have ordered, yes ORDERED, me to shut down this website. They cite that the information contained in these pages violates several Army Regulations. I certainly disagree with this," it read.

On his Web log Cohen had described the chaotic scene after the Dec. 21 mess hall bombing in which 22 people died.

He reported that eventually there were more wounded than emergency room beds.

Lt. Col. Steven Boylan, a spokesman for coalition forces in Iraq, said he could not confirm investigation

into Cohen's blog. He said the Pentagon allows blogs that do not disrupt discipline, make statements on behalf of commanders or the Army, or reveal de-

attackers "Sometimes blog might contain subtle nuances from which you can put together a complete picture of our operations, which insurgents

tails that could aid

can use to attack us," Boylan said.

Since his blog went off-line last week, Cohen, 35, said he has received about 150 e-mails urging him to restore his account of his year as a surgeon at Forward Operating Base Marez.

#### Aloha Run hoofs it to Afghanistan

The Associated Press

HONOLULU - Great Aloha Run organizers are taking the charity footrace to U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

They have helped set up three courses at undisclosed locations in the country where some 5,800 Schofield Barracks soldiers are deployed. For security reasons. the military has declined to name the location of the courses.

More than 2,000 Hawaii-based

troops will be allowed to participate this month in the 8.15-mile fun run.

Race organizer Carole Kai said runners in Afghanistan will be asked to donate to the run and its 27 charities, rather than pay the \$25 entry fee

The annual Presidents Day race on Oahu attracts more than 20,000 participants, including more than 5,000 military person-

## Fallujah killings prompt lawsuits from families

BY ESTES THOMPSON The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. - Families of four slain security contractors whose bodies were burned and dragged through the streets of Fallujah, Iraq, have sued the workers' former company.

The families contend that the company, Blackwater Security Consulting, cut corners that led to the men's deaths last year. The lawsuit filed Wednesday seeks unspecified damages

The workers were sent into Fallujah without proper equipment and personnel to defend the supply convoy they were guarding, according to the civil lawsuit

"The fact that these four Americans found themselves located in the high-risk, war-torn city of Falluiah without armored vehicles, automatic weapons and fewer than the minimum number of team members was no accident," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit alleges that one week before the deaths, Blackwater fired a project manager who had insisted that the contractors use armored vehi-

In a statement issued Wednesday, a spokesman for

was "deeply saddened by the tragic loss of our four colleagues as a result of a terrorist act."

"Blackwater hopes that the honor and dignity of our fallen comrades are not diminished by the use of the legal process," spokesman Chris Bertelli said in the statement.

The attack made worldwide headlines, as frenzied and jubilant Iraqi crowds dragged the charred bodies of the four Americans through the streets and strung two of them up from a bridge. Killed were Stephen S. Helvenston, Mike R. Teague, Jerko Gerald Zovko and Wesley J.K. Batalona.

Blackwater contracted with ESS Support Services Worldwide to provide security for food shipments to U.S. bases in Iraq. According to the suit, the contract called for secu-

rity teams to have two armored vehicles and a minimum of six personnel, as well as a heavy machine gun that could fire up to 850 rounds per minute. But plaintiffs' attorney Dan Callahan said the vic-

tims were sent out in unarmored vehicles, without the heavy machine gun and without a man, and got

"When they went out, they got slaughtered," Callahan said



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#### IN THE STATES

## **Justice nominee** draws criticism for prison abuse

BY MARK SHERMAN The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Attorney general nominee Alberto Gonzales drew scorching criticism from

Senate Democrats Thursday for his role in Bush administration policies on the

treatment of terror sus-pects. He repudiated torture tactics and vowed at contentious confirmation hearing to abide by inter-

national treaties on prisoner rights. "I will no longer represent only

the White House. I will represent the United States of America and

its people. I understand the difference between the two roles," President Bush's counsel told the Senate Judiciary Committee.

His assurances did little to placate Democrats.

"America's troops and citizens are at greater risk" because of administration policies that are "tan-tamount to torture." said Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, the

panel's top Democrat. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., told Gonzales that policies he supported or helped formulate "have been used by the administration, the military and the CIA to justify torture and Geneva Convention violations by military and civilian personnel."

Despite the Democratic fireworks, Gonzales' nomination was widely expected to be confirmed by the GOP-led Senate. Even his detractors praised the rags-to-riches story of the Texas-raised son of Mexican im-



nts of Attorney General nom Senate Judiciary Committee confirmation hearing on Thursday.

The road you traveled....all the way to the White House is a trib-ute to you and your family,"

Gonzales, 49, seated by himself at the witness table, answered pointed questions in a calm, even voice. His wife, three sons, moth-er-in-law and a brother sat behind him in the first row of the au-

Refore Gonzales' confirmation hearing got under way, the White House refused to provide sena tors additional documents on his role in the decision to allow aggressive interrogations of terrorm detainees, adding to the ad-

ministration's confrontation with congressional Democrats over

the now-repudiated policies. David Leitch, the House's deputy counsel, told committee Democrats in a letter released Thursday that the administration had already turned over all of the documents it plans to.

Asked about the torture scandal at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison, Gonzales said he was "sickened and outraged by those photos." But he declined to give a legal opinion on the alleged abuses, suggesting he didn't want to prejudice a possible criminal case if he becomes attorney general.

#### Mad cow disease

WASHINGTON - A Senate Agriculture Committee majority on Thursday approved the nomination of Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns as the nation's 28th agriculture secretary.

Johanns is first of President Bush's second-term nominees to clear a Senate committee.

Johanns will resign as governor upon confirmation.

#### Agenda for schools

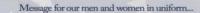
WASHINGTON House domestic policy chief Margaret Spellings, who helped set the national agenda for schools, began the task Thursday of defining how she would lead them.

Spellings, nominated by Presi dent Bush to be the country's eighth education secretary, went before the Senate education committee Thursday to take questions about her views.

#### Growing trade deficit

WASHINGTON - U.S. Commerce Secretary nominee Carlos M. Gutierrez is promising to aggressively fight the unfair trade practices of foreign nations and to speed up the government's han-dling of individual cases. America's annual trade deficit expected to top \$600 billion. American com-panies have lost 2.7 million jobs over the past four years.

From The Associated Press



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## Conviction reversed for mom who drowned kids

BY MICHAEL GRACZY
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andrea Yates' capital murder convictions for drowning her children were over-turned Thursday by an appeals court, which ruled that a prosecution witness' erroneous testimony about a nonexistent TV episode could have been crucial.

count nave been crucian.

Yates lawyers had argued at a hearing last month before a three-judge panel of the First Court of Appeals in Houston that psychiatrist Park Dietz was wrong when he mentioned an episode of the I'V show "Law & Order" involving a woman found innocent by reason of insanity for drowning her children.

After jurors found Yates guilty, attorneys in the case and jurors learned no such episode existed.

"We conclude that there is a reasonable likelihood that Dr. Ditet's false testimony could have affected the judgment of the jury," the court ruled. "We further conclude that Dr. Dietz's false testimony affected the substantial rights of appellant."

The appellate ruling returns the case for a new trial, although prosecutors said they hoped instead to successfully appeal Thursday's ruling.

"We fully intend to pursue a motion for a rehearing," said Harris County Assistant District Attorney Alan Curry, who argued the case before the appeals court. "Barring that, we'll continue to appeal to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. We still believe we have a good shot to prevail in appeal."

Jurors in 2002 sentenced Yates to life in prison in the 2001 deaths of three of her children. She was not tried in the deaths of the other

The defense's appeal cited 19 errors from her trial, but the appeals court said since the false testimony issue reversed the conviction, it was not ruling on the other matters. Among other things, Yates attorneys had claimed the Texas insanity standard is unconstitutional.

Prosecutors told the court last month there was no evidence Dietz intentionally lied and that the testimony was evoked by Yates' defense attorney during cross-examination. They also argued that Dietz's testimony wasn't material to the case and there was plenty of other testimo-

ny about Yates' plans to kill her children.

A woman answering the telephone at Dietz's Newport Beach, Calif., office said Thursday there was no immediate comment from him or his firm. He had testified the episode aired shortly before the drownings, and other testimomy during the trial had indicated

hat Yates watched the series.

A wet and bedraggled Yates called police to her home on June 20, 2001, and showed them the

bodies of her five children: Noah, 7; John, 5; Paul, 3; Luke, 2; and 6-month-old Mary. She had called them into the bathroom

and drowned them one by one.

According to testimony, Yates
was overwhelmed by motherhood, considered herself a bad
mother, and had attempted suicide and been hospitalized for de-

pression.

Prosecutors acknowledged she was mentally ill but argued that she knew right from wrong and was thus not legally insane. Diet is a nationally known expert who also took part in such high profile cases as those of Susan Smith, convicted of killing her two children in a South Carolina lake, serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer; and "Unabomber" Ted Kaczynski.



President Bush shakes hands with Dr. Eric Falconer after delivering his remarks Wednesday that continue to nuch for limits on jury awards for medical mistakes at the Gateway Center in Collinsville. III.

#### Bush pushes for medical liability reform

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

COLLINSVILLE, Ill. — President Bush on Wednesday openad a new drive for caps on medical malpractice awards, contending the limits would lower health care costs. Opponents said such ceilings would merely shield doctors and others who provide poor health care.

"T believe the voters made their position clear on Election Day on medical liability reform," Bush said, citing his re-election as evidence of support for a proposal that has passed the House but failed in the Senate.

The renewed battle revived a partisan debate about whether Bush's victory in November gave him a second-term mandate to push his big-ticket items through Congress.

Congress.

Sen. Edward Kennedy,
D-Mass., criticized Bush's medical malpractice proposal as well
as the president's claim of having
new political capital.

"Barely two months after proming to unify and heal the country after a bitter election, the president's again pushing for legislation that will further divide it," Kennedy said.

"The president's medical malpractice plan is nothing but a shameful shield for drug companies and HMOs who hurt people through negligence," Kennedy said

Bush made his case in Madison County, across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. The county has been called the "judicial hellhole" of the nation by the American Tort Reform Association last year because of a reputation for huge awards won by plaintiffs.

Lawyers in the area say the

legal situation has been exaggerated and that large malpractice awards have been scarce. "The United States Congress needs to pass real medical liability reform this year," Bush said, slapping his lectern with an open

palm to emphasize his point.

Behind him, the White House advance team arrayed audience members in white medical coats. The president wants to place a limit of \$250,000 on noneconomic damages, or the pain and suffer-

ing portions of malpractice awards. Bush would impose no limits on economic losses suffered at the hands of bad doctors.

## Pilots call for more info on laser risk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Officials with airline pilots unions say the government should be doing more to alert them to incidents involving lasers and to provide guidance about how best to protect themselves against beams that can blind.

At least eight recent incidents involve lasers being pointed at aircraft cockpits as they approached for landings. No one was hurt and all the aircraft landed safely.

Denis Breslin, an American Airlines captain, said pilots learned about the incidents only through the news media. He said the government should have a way to alert pilots so they can take precautions. "Pilots want a generalized warning and training. I think that's not too much to ask," said Breslin, first vice president of the Allied Pilots Association.

Federal Aviation Administrations spokeswoman Laura Brown said the agency is very concerned about the safety of pilots, passengers and the rest of the flight crew. "We're putting the finishing touches on fresh advice for pilots," she said.

An FAA study released in June found that most pilots subjected to a laser flash in a simulator reported temporary visual impairment and brief distraction.

Of the hundreds of cases in the past in which airplane cockpits have been illuminated by lasers, none resulted in an accident, the study said.

#### Dems force debate on Ohio vote

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A small group of Democrats agreed Thursday to force House and Senate debates on Election Day problems in Ohio before letting the U.S. Congress certify President Bush's win over Sen. John Kerry.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat, signed a challenge mounted by House Democrats to Ohio's 20 electoral votes, which put Bush over the top. By law, a challenge signed by members of the House and Senate requires both chambers to meet separately

for up to two hours to consider it. Lawmakers are allowed to speak for no more than five minutes each.

While Bush's victory is not in jeopardy, the Democratic challenge will force Congress to interrupt tallying the Electoral College vote, which was scheduled to begin Thursday. It would be only the second time since 1877 that the House and Senate were forced into separate meetings to consider electoral votes.

Bush defeated Kerry, 286-252, with 270 electoral votes needed





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## **Seattle named 'fit' as Houston declared 'fat'**

SEATTLE - Must be some-

thing in the coffee. Seattle has been named the fittest city in the United States in

the February issue of Men's Fitness magazine, leaping past the buff competition from Honolulu, Colorado Springs, San Francisco and Denver

Exercising faithfully and shunning fast food boosted Seattle to the top from No. 6 last year, Men's Fitness Editor in Chief Neal Boulton said.

"Eighty-five percent of Seattle residents get some exercise every month, and that's a really significant thing," Boulton said.

The city's jittery love affair with espresso might fuel some of that activity, he noted: "There's not only a lot of it, it's pretty darn strong

In its nonscientific Seventh Annual Fattest and Fittest Cities Report, the magazine compares 50 cities by weighing 14 factors, including fast food restaurants per capita, TV watching, air quality and parks. In Seattle, for example, the magazine says sporting goods stores and gyms outnumber fast food joints — a key statistic.

Houston was named the fattest city for the fourth time in five years, followed by Philadelphia, Detroit, Memphis and Chicago. Seattle's claim to the fitness

#### The fittest

- Seattle
   Honolulu
- . Colorado Springs, Colo.
- . San Francisco
- 6. Portland, Ore
- Sacramento, Calif.
   Tucson, Ariz.
- 9. San Diego 10. Albuquerque, N.M.

#### The fattest

- Philadelphia
- Detroit
- 4. Memphis, Tenn
- 5. Chicago 6. Dallas New Orleans
- 8. New York
- 9. Las Vegas 10. San Antonio

crown makes sense to Doug Sherry and his Wheaten Terrier, Bing, who walk the three-mile path every day, rain or shine.

"Everyone I know does something," explained Sherry, 35, who also hits the gym several times a week. "There's lots of good terrain to walk and bike and hike You're close to the water, you're close to the mountains

His advice for those seeking to emulate Seattle's healthy ways? "Enjoy the outdoors," said. "And get a dog."

### Warning: Labels may tickle your funny bone

The Associated Press

DETROIT - The sign on the toilet brush says it best: "Do not use for personal hygiene."

That admonition was the winner of an anti-lawsuit group's annual contest for the wackiest consumer warning label of the year.

The sponsor, Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch, says the goal is "to reveal how lawsuits, and concern about lawsuits, have created a need for common sense warnings on products." The \$500 first prize went to Ed

Gyetvai, of Oldcastle, Ontario, who submitted the toilet-brush label. A \$250 second prize went to Matt Johnson, of Naperville, Ill., for a label on a children's scooter that said, "This product moves when used." A \$100 third prize went to Ann

Marie Taylor, of Camden, S.C., who submitted a warning from a digital thermometer that said, "Once used rectally, the thermom-eter should not be used orally."

The leader of a group that opposes the campaign to limit lawsuits admits that while some warning labels may seem stupid, even dumb warnings can do good.

"There are many cases of warning labels saving lives," said Joanne Doroshow, executive disaid rector of the Center for Justice and Democracy in New York. "It's much better to be very cauthan to be afraid of being made fun of by a tort reform group.

#### Freight train crash kills 2

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. - A Norfolk Southern freight train carrying chlorine gas struck a parked train early Thursday, killing two people and injuring at least 170 others, authorities said.

Decontamination sites were treating people exposed to fumes. Most of the injured were treated for respiratory ailments and released, authorities said. The wreck happened about 2:30 a.m. at an Avondale Mills facility in

this textile town near the Georgia line. Thirteen cars derailed.

National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman Lauren Peduzzi said the agency would send investigators to the scene.

From The Associated Press

## **U.S.** midsection recovering from winter storms

BY NATHANIEL HERNANDEZ The Associated Press

CHICAGO - A winter storm that put much of the Midwest in the dark inched its way east Thursday, spreading a treacherous mix of freezing rain and

snow from the Great Lakes to New England.

The forecast called for up to 6 inches of snow by evening, considerably less than the amounts that fell Wednesday across the country's midsection. The same system had dumped up to 3 feet of snow in the

mountains around Los Angeles earlier in the week. The snow, sleet and freezing rain were part of a mass of cold air that dropped the temperature to a Jan. 5 record low of 39 below zero in Grand Forks, N.D. Embarrass, Minn., hit 43 below, the National Weather Service said

Michigan recorded some of the heaviest snowfall. with towns up north digging out from almost a foot. In Detroit, icy roads were blamed for a school bus accident that sent eight students to a hospital to be

checked for injuries. In Illinois, some northern locations got up to 9 inches of snow

Up to 2 inches of rain fell in some southern counties, prompting flood warnings.

At Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, where more than 6 inches of snow fell, travelers coped with more than 600 canceled flights and three-hour delays. Twenty-one flights were canceled at the city's other airport, Midway, according to aviation offi-

ARIZONA DAILY SUN/AF

Alex Rhode, 8, and his dad Jeff, left, shovel snow from their roof Wednesday in Flagstaff, Ariz..

Weather-related traffic deaths included one each in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Indiana. Icy roads also may have been a factor in accidents that killed two in Michigan and at least nine in Oklahoma, including a Tulsa woman and her four chil-

A search resumed Wednesday for two people who had been in a car that was found washed into a creek in Missouri, and one man was still missing after an Arizona flash flood that killed another man.

School closings were reported from New Mexico to New Jersey, and hundreds of travelers were

stranded across the country.

Thick ice coated roads, trees and utility poles across Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Oklahoma, Indiana and the Texas Panhandle

## Microsoft offering users free antivirus software download

BY TED BRIDIS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Microsoft Corp., whose popular Windows software is a frequent target for Internet viruses, is offering a free security program to remove the most dangerous infections from

The program, with monthly up-dates, is a step toward plans by Microsoft to sell full-blown antivirus software later this year

Microsoft said Thursday that consumers can download the new security program from the company's Web site — www.miwww.microsoft.com — and that updated versions will be offered automatically and free each month. It will be available starting Tuesday.

Also being offered is a free program to remove "spyware," a category of irritating programs that se cretly monitor the activities of Internet users and can cause sluggish computer performance or popup ads.

Microsoft said the virus-removal program will not prevent computer infections and was never intended to replace the need for traditional antivirus software, such as flagship products from McAfee Inc. or Symantec Corp.

But a senior Microsoft executive confirmed the company's plans to sell its own antivirus software, which would compete against programs from McAfee, Symantec and others.

Microsoft purchased a Roma nian antivirus firm, GeCAD Software Srl., for an undisclosed amount in 2003. Industry rivals expect Microsoft's formal entry into the market as early as the spring.

"We will have a standalone antivirus product that is one of the things you can buy from Mi-crosoft, but we're not announcing anything today," said Rich Ka-plan, vice president for Microsoft-'s security business and technology unit.

The offers of free virus- and spyware-removal tools were inten ed to convince consumers that Microsoft is working to improve its software's security, Kaplan said.

Microsoft and other companies occasionally have offered separate programs to disinfect specific viruses. Microsoft promised its new removal tool will target a vari-ety of infections and will be updated each month to recognize new

#### ATF issues alert for man inquiring to buy explosive ingredients

BY JOHN SOLOMON The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Federal authorities are looking for a man using a Middle Eastern name and possibly bogus construction credentials to try to purchase large quantities of an explosive ingredient used by Timothy McVeigh in the Oklahoma City bombing. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms and Explosives said there was no indication that terror-ism was involved, but the agency was still checking information that came from a company in Canada that reported the attempted purchase as suspicious

ATF was asking the fertilizer and explosives industries to help locate the man and to report any suspicious inquiries for the fertilizer ammonium nitrate, which is used to make so-called fertilizer hombs

"We're still running down leads. But we thought it would be prudent putting out an advisory to the fertilizer industry," said Tom Man-gan, an ATF agent in Phoenix, where the investigation is centered.

The suspect also made several e-mail inquiries to vendors, seek ing to buy between 500 to 1,000 metric tons of the explosive — a quantity larger than McVeigh used to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building in April 1995 but smaller than amounts companies typically might buy in bulk for construction, explosives or farm work.

McVeigh used a combination of

ammonium nitrate and fuel oil with a detonation cord to make his bomb, which killed more than 160 The International Society of Explosives Engineers, based in Cleve-

sent an e-mail Wednesday

alerting its members and asking them to call ATF in Phoenix to report any suspicious activity.
"ATF has recently been made aware of a suspicious attempt by an individual to purchase quantities of ammonium nitrate, specifically between 500 to 1,000 metric tons," the alert said.

"This individual, who uses a Middle Eastern name, purports to be a representative of a construction corporation. However, indications are that this is most likely false.

"The individual has previously made contact with other industry members via e-mail seeking the large amounts of 'fertilizer grade' ammonium nitrate," the alert said. Ammonium nitrate has been linked to several recent terror

Less than a year ago, Homeland Security officials put out a warning about unsubstantiated intelligence suggesting that al-Qaida or other terrorists might try to smuggle am-monium nitrate bombs aboard public transportation venues such as trains, subways or buses

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#### IN THE WORLD

## Summit tackles health issues for survivors

BY MICHAEL C. CORDE The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Amid warnings that the anticipated 150,000 death toll from the Asian tsunami disaster could jump sharply without fresh aid, world leaders staggered by the calamity sought Thursday to figure out the best way to help victims - and to prevent such a catastrophe from happening again

As donors held an emergency summit in Indonesia, relief work-ers scrambled to move aid to areas of Sumatra, the Indonesian island hit hardest by the massive earthquake and giant waves that crashed ashore Dec. 26. Volunteers hurled sacks of rice and instant noodles into trucks en route to the hungry even as U.S. helicopters buzzed overhead on their to deliver supplies to Sumatra's isolated communities.

A radical Islamic group set up a relief camp in Sumatra, raising fears of agitation against U.S. and Australian military teams gearFor more photos and stories on military relief operations, visit www.stripes.com

ing up to assist victims. The militants, once headed by an al-Qaida linked terror chief and infamous for attacking the Christian minority on Indonesia's far-flung islands, insisted they would not interfere with foreign troops - as long as they kept strictly to humanitarian operations.

South Korean relief workers helping victims of Asia's tsunami disaster may become targets of terror attacks, the government warned Thursday.

South Korea sent a "request to related countries" to take security measures for the aid workers, said Lee Kyu-hyung, a spokesman of Seoul's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

not immediately clear whether South Koreans were more at risk than aid workers from other coun-World leaders conferred in

Jakarta about how to transform one of the largest aid packages ever assembled - nearly \$4 billion in pledges - into food for the hungry and shelter for the home-less. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan urged nations to immediately come forward with the billions they've promised and to break with past practices of promising much and delivering little.

"The disaster was so brutal, so quick, and so far-reaching, that we are still struggling to comprehend it," Annan said. "We will never know the exact magnitude of how many men, women and children perished on 26 December

Australia leads the world with a total aid pledge of \$810 million. followed by Japan and the United States

President Bush personally contributed \$10,000 from his personal funds to the relief effort, his spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said America would take a wait-and-see attitude before pledging more cash to tsunami re-

"These are not insignificant

numbers," Powell told reporters. The World Health Organization said that if basic needs - particularly access to safe drinking water — were not restored by the

Tsunami victims clean the destroyed area around their old homes at the eastern coastal village of Kattankudi, near Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, on Thursday. Getting aid to millions of tsunami victims is a race against time, and nations must immediately come forward with the money they pledged, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Thursday during an

end of this week, infectious diseas-U.N. health agency said Thurs-But officials are concerned that

unless this aid is sustained, the system could collapse. Rushing water purification tablets to survi vors and building rudimentary toilets remain the focus of efforts to fend off deadly disease outbreaks in devastated communities.

The U.N. health organization is

warning that hygiene in the hundreds of refugee camps that have sprung up around the region is the biggest disease concern. An estimated 3 million to 5 million people are living in refugee camps across the tsunami-stricken area In Sri Lanka, aid workers are digging ditches at camps to create la-

Associated Press Writers Emma Ross in Jakarta, Chris Brummitt and Denis Gray in Banda Aceh, Dilip Ganguly in Sri Lanka, and Leyla Linton at the United Nations contributed to this report.

emergency summit held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

es could kill tens of thousands. The confirmed death toll in the region stands at 140,000, and senior U.N. officials have predicted it will reach 150,000.

Epidemics could claim a far higher number.

"We now estimate that as many as 150,000 people are at extreme risk if a major disease outbreak in the affected areas occurs," said WHO Director-General Dr. Lee Jong-wook For the moment, though, the

threat of an outbreak of waterborne disease is being held in check by medical aid flooding into the region, U.N. officials said. While there are cases of diarrhea. respiratory and skin diseases and mental trauma, there have been no major outbreaks of disease in the devastated Aceh region, the

## Relief effort costing U.S. military \$6 million daily

BY ROBERT BURNS The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is spending about \$6 million a day to operate the fleet of ships. aircraft and other military resources that have joined the tsunami relief effort in south Asia, a spokesman said Thursday.

Army Lt. Col. Gary Keck, a Pentagon public affairs officer, said the \$6 million per day covers a U.S. contingent of 13,000 military personnel, of which 12,000 are aboard 17 Navy ships in the region hit by the Dec. 26 earthquake and resulting tsunami.

The U.S. military's contribution to the humanitarian effort is possibly its largest in history; it is separate from the \$350 million that President Bush has pledged in U.S. government assistance

The latest ship to join the effort was the USNS Mercy, a hospital

ship that set sail Wednesday evening from San Diego. It is initially staffed to support 250 patient beds but could be expanded to 1,000 beds with additional medical staff. The humanitarian organization Project HOPE has expressed interest in providing med-ical staff for the Mercy, which will take about 30 days to reach south Asia

The biggest share of the estimated \$6 million-a-day cost is for the USS Abraham Lincoln battle group. Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific Command, has said it costs about \$2.5 million a day to operate the Lincoln group, which has 17 helicopters aboard. Another major force in the area

is Expeditionary Strike Group 5, led by the USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault ship that arrived Thursday off the northwest coast of Sumatra with 1,300 Marines aboard.

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## U.N. official critical of U.S. relief effort

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The U.N. official coordinating relief efforts on Sumatra island complained Thursday that the U.S. military's aid mission was failing to coordinate and provide critical information to other relief organizations struggling to help survivors of the tsunami

Michael Elmquist said that while American helicopters were speeding relief supplies to villages isolated by the Dec. 26 disaster, their crews were not spending enough time on the ground to assess survi-

"They don't stop their engines. They're on the ground for five minutes," Elmquist told reporters in the provincial capital of Banda Aceh, on the hard-hit northern tip of Sumatra

The U.S. relief operation is one of the largest in its military history and has won

praise for reaching villages devastated by the earthquake and tsunami, which washed out roads and destroyed bridges. But Elmquist said he couldn't be sure what the U.S. helicopters were delivering.

"I don't know what they had on board," Elmquist said. "We don't get any feed-

The United Nations has only had "brief contact" with the American military, Elmquist said, adding that he would "like to see it intensified over the next few days

The comments shed new light on some of the complications plaguing the efforts to get critical supplies to survivors of the Dec. 26 disaster, which left nearly 100,000 Indonesians dead and hundreds of thousands homeless.

Elmquist said that relief officials planned to start work Friday on building at least four large refugee centers that could hold up to 8.500 people. He said he hoped the first camps could be opened within a

## UNICEF: Gangs may prey on Indonesian orphans

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia - Fearing child-trafficking gangs will exploit the chaos of the tsunami disaster. Indonesia has placed restrictions on youngsters leaving the country, ordered police com manders to be on the lookout for trafficking and posted special guards in refugee camps.

UNICEF and other child welfare groups warn that the gangs who are well-established in Indonesia - may well be whisking orphaned children into trafficking networks, selling them into forced labor or even sexual slavery in wealthier neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. UNICEE

On Wednesday, spokesman John Budd, based in Banda Aceh, said the group had two confirmed reports of attempted child trafficking, but he did not immediately provide any further details

Such trafficking, if true, would vastly deepen the suffering of children already struck hard by the Dec. 26 massive earthquake and tsunami. Indonesia estimates that 35,000 children on Sumatra island's Aceh province lost one or both parents to the disaster.

Fueling the suspicions, many



A child orphaned by the Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami cries as aid workers escort the baby into the Halim Airport terminal on Sunday in Jakarta, Indonesia, for treatment, Criminal gangs are taking advantage of the chaos in Sumatra's tsunami-stricken Aceh province to whisk orphaned children into trafficking networks. selling them into forced labor or even sexual slavery, UNICEF says. Hoping to prevent widespread smuggling of vulnerable youngsters, the government has banned Acehnese children under 16 from leaving Indonesia.

Indonesians have received mobile phone text messages this week inviting them to adopt orphans from Aceh. The police are investigating the messages.

It's unclear whether such messages are pranks, real adoption of-fers or linked in some way to trafficking networks.

But child welfare experts warn the messages could be a sign that children are being removed from the province, reducing their chances of being reunited with relatives or surviving parents who may be searching for them.

"I'm sure it's happening," said Birgithe Lund-Henriksen, child protection chief in UNICEF's Indonesia office. "It's a perfect opportunity for these guys to move in

Officials concede that so far they have little hard evidence of specis ic cases, but say the aftermath of a natural disaster is a perfect breed-ing ground for such traffic.

In Thailand, Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai said Tuesday that his government was working closely with hospitals to prevent human trafficking gangs from taking advantage of the situation, although he stressed that there was no firm indication that they were.

The threat of trafficking appears more serious in Indonesia than any of the other southern Asian nations hit by the tsunami, probably because the scale of death and destruction is greatest here and the territory more remote, UNICEF director Carol Bellamy told The Associated Press in an interview Tuesday.

Making matters worse, the hardest-hit area in Indonesia -Aceh — is not far from the port city of Medan and nearby island of Batam, which are well-known transit points for gangs shipping children and teenagers out of In-

"This is a situation that lends itself to this kind of exploitation," Bellamy said. "Our concern here is ... whether these children are frankly turned into child slaves if you will, or abused and exploit-

#### Marines on way to Iraq welcome aid mission

BY ERIC TALMADGE

The Associated Press

ABOARD THE USS BONHOMME RICHARD - When Lance Corp. Keith Delatorre boarded this warship in San Diego a month ago, he thought he was on his way to Iraq. Now, he's loading up his gear for a very different mission - bringing badly needed aid to Indonesians left isolated by the tsuna mi that battered coastlines along the Indian Ocean

Delatorre, who celebrated his 22nd birthday Wednesday, said he was happy for the new orders, which came down two days after the disaster struck as the USS Bonhomme Richard was making a port call at the Pacific island of Guam.

"We just need to get the mission done," he said, sweating in the heat of the ship's hull. "A lot of guys would say they want to go right to Iraq. But I'm kind of glad. There's not much chance of dying

The Bonhomme Richard and another warship brimming with Marines, helicopters and heavy equipment arrived off the shores of northwest Sumatra on Thursday to begin its part of what is possibly the largest U.S. military humanitarian aid operation ever.

"We were training for Iraq, so getting diverted to a humanitarian mission is like night and day, said Delatorre, of Pleasant Hill, Calif.

The Bonhomme Richard, with 1,300 Marines aboard, and the smaller USS Duluth are joining the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and its battle group in the relief effort for the northwestern Sumatra province of Aceh, where as many as 100,000 people are believed to have been killed by the Dec. 26 catastrophe. Another ship, the USS Rushmore, was also on its way.

The Marines are planning to set up farther south than the Lincoln to reach villages there that may not yet have made contact with the outside world

Their arrival strongly boosts the relief efforts. Along with dozens of helicopters, the ships carry large landing craft that float on cushions of air and can come ashore on virtually any kind of beach. Once ashore, the Marines could offer the manpower and equipment needed to build shelters, clear roads and airstrips, and distribute clean drinking water.

Working out the details of the operation has been delicate, however.

Though originally assigned to spearhead relief efforts on Sri Lanka, the Bonhomme Richard was diverted to Sumatra after the government in Colombo scaled down its relief request. An intensive airlift by helicopters from this ship to bring supplies out of the overwhelmed airport in Medan on Wednesday raised concerns from local officials that the military was crowding out commercial



U.S. Marines of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked on the USS Bonhomme Richard prepare pallets of relief aid to be airlifted from Medan, Indonesia, for distribution in the country. The USS Bonhomme Richard is participating in Operation Unified Assistance, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations to tsunami victims.

#### Mandela's son dies at 54

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa -Former President Nelson Mandela announced Thursday that his eldest son died Thursday of AIDS-related complications, saving the only way to fight the disease's stigma was to speak openly about it.

Makgatho Mandela, an attorney, was admitted to Linksfield Park Clinic last month. He died at age



"Let us give publicity to HIV/AIDS and not hide it, because the only way of making it appear to be a normal illness, just like TB, like cancer, is always to come out and say somehody has died because of HIV." Mandela said

at a news conference at his residence. Mandela said he had been unaware of his son's illness when he began lobbying for more openness about the pandemic

some three years ago More than 5 million of South Africa's 45 million people are infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, more than in any other country. An estimated 600 die of

AIDS-related complications every day. Last year, Makgatho Mandela's wife Zondi, died of pneumonia. The couple had three sons. A fourth son, Mandla Mandelad, is the only child from an earlier mar-

#### Black ice closes runways

INNSBRUCK, Austria - Authorities shut down the airport in the western Austrian city of Innsbruck on Thursday after black ice slicked runways, making takeoffs and landings dangerous. No accidents were reported.

Air travelers were being shuttled by bus from Innsbruck to Salzburg for alternative flights, officials said.

Authorities planned to reopen the Innsbruck airport, heavily used by ski tourists. later in the day.

Icy highways for blamed for numerous traffic accidents across much of Austria where police also closed a section of the key A12 highway, local media reported. The alpine province of Tyrol was particularly hampered by black ice after temperatures warmed to just above freezing over-

#### Lottery winner still unknown

COPENHAGEN Denmark - The winner of Denmark's largest ever lottery jackpot hasn't yet come forward to claim the prize, the state-owned lottery organizer said Thursday.

The gambler won \$5.8 million on the weekly Wednesday lottery.

The six-number winning ticket was bought at a Copenhagen newsstand on Wednesday, Dansk Tipstieneste Group

Lotto sales in Denmark total about \$533 million, accounting for more than 60 percent of Denmark's gaming market

#### Canadian prescription drugs

TORONTO - Internet sales of prescrip tion drugs to U.S. consumers could be banned by Canada if a proposal being drafted by health officials is approved, changes that would essentially kill a \$700 million industry that has become increasingly popu-lar with underinsured patients in search of cheaper medicine.

The issue has become touchy politically for President Bush, whose administration has argued that reimporting U.S.-made drugs from Canada would put consumers at risk because U.S. regulators could not guarantee their safety. The pharmaceuti-cal industry, which donated heavily to Bush's re-election campaign, vehemently opposes reimporting drugs, a practice that undercuts their U.S. sales.

From The Associated Press

## **Abbas: Sharon partner in peace**

#### Presidential candidate hopes talks will resume over Sunday vote

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH The Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank - Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas on

Thursday described Israeli leader Ariel Sharon as a nartner for neace talks and said he hopes negotiations will resume soon after weekend elections.

On a campaign stop in the West Bank's largest city, Abbas reached out to Israel, after a series of hard-line speeches and appearances with Palestinian gunmen in recent days. Israeli officials welcomed the conciliatory statements.

Also Thursday, Israel's army chief announced that he'll expel officers and soldiers who refuse to participate in a planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. The warning came after 34 reserve officers signed a letter urging soldiers not to participate in the pullout

Abbas, the front-runner in Sunday's election, had come under criticism in Israel this week for a string of incendiary speech-

But in Nablus, he took a softer approach, criticizing attacks on Israel as counterproductive and calling for a resumption of peace talks with Sharon based on the "road

"After the elections, we will start negotiations." Abbas said at a news conference. "Ariel Sharon is an elected leader and we will negotiate with him. We will put the road map on the table and say that we are ready to implement it completely."

The internationally backed road map, which envisions an independent Palestin-

ian state alongside Israel, has been stalled for more than a year

Israel refused to negotiate with the previus Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, accusing him of involvement in terrorism Arafat died in a French hospital on Nov.

Abbas is eager to resume peace talks. But on the campaign trail, he has had to overcome his image as a dull bureaucrat and build support among the many Palestinian constituencies, including the young

members of the powerful militant groups. Meanwhile, in fresh Gaza violence, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Hamas militant who had infiltrated the greenhouses of the Jewish settlement of Ganei Tal. The militant, who was armed with hand grenades. an assault rifle and an explosives belt, opened fire on soldiers who were carrying out a routine patrol along the perimeter of the settlement, the army said.

### Orthodox Christians prepare for Christmas

BY MIKE ECKEL

The Associated Press

MOSCOW - The head of Russia's Orthodox Church offered blessings and prayers on the eye of the Christmas Thursday, noting in his traditional holiday greetings that

2004 was a difficult year for Russia Patriarch Alexy II also addressed Christians worldwide and people of other faiths. saying "Let us work together for the sake of

peace and the prosperity of our peoples." The patriarch made reference in his greetings to the string of terrorist attacks that struck Russia in August and September, including the Sept. 1-3 hostage-taking at the school in Beslan in which more than 340 peo-

ple died, nearly half of them children "Flouting everything that is holy in their impious madness terrorists raised their hands against children. The deaths of innocent victims has become our common grief and filled our hearts with pain and sorrow," he said.

"But at the same time, the horrible tragedy has shown that moral ideals are alive in the people: facing death, many people manifested high examples of sacrificial love for their neighbors, laying down their lives for their friends, as the Holy Scripture

Christmas falls on Jan. 7 for Orthodox Christians in the Holy Land, Russia and other Eastern Orthodox churches that use the old Julian calendar instead of the 16th-century Gregorian calendar adopted by Catholics and Protestants and commonly used in secular life around the world.

Other Orthodox Christians celebrated the holiday on Dec. 25, including Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew - the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox — and the church in Greece and the Americas.

The patriarch met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Kremlin also Thursday, where he received well-wishes from the Russian leader. Putin spoke at length about the humanitarian aid and rescue efforts Russia has provided to Asian countries devastated by the Dec. 26 tsunami.

"I want to again wish you a Merry Christmas, happiness and health to you and all the Orthodox Christians, to all the people who will be observing this holy holiday. Putin told the patriarch.

Putin was scheduled to travel to Tver. about 100 miles northwest of Moscow. later Thursday for holiday services.

The Russian Orthodox Church which



The head of Russia's Orthodox Church Patriarch Alexy II and President Vladimir Putin meet Thursday on the eve of the Orthodox Christmas at the Kremlin in Moscow. The patriarch received the good wishes from the Russian leader

was all but banned during the Soviet Union, has experienced a major resurgence since the 1991, with an estimated two-thirds of Russia's 144 million people believed to be observant.

#### Three Kings Day in Spain



Ensign Ernest Padilla, a U.S. naval officer assigned to Naval Station Rota, Spain, throws candies to children on Wednesday during the Three Kings parade in Rota, Spain. Three Kings Day which celebrates the visit of the three wisemen to baby Jesus — is a national holiday in Spain. Every year in Rota, an American is selected to play the

> SCOTT SCHONAUER Stars and Stripes

#### YOUR MONEY

## Large vans making a comeback

By JOHN PORRETTO

The Associated Press

DETROIT - An automotive fad of the 1970s, customized vans, might be the next big thing coming out of Detroit.

The big vans once decorated with shag carpeting and beads have evolved into sophisticated vehicles for families and groups alike and General Motors Corp. and two dozen companies are spending a couple of million dollars to spread that message and try to revive demand for the big. souped-up rides.

GM helped form the Conversion Van Marketing Association last year to raise awareness of the customized vans — the Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana in particular - and to disnel outdated perceptions of vehicles decked out with wild paint jobs and crushed velour upholstery.

Today's vans, which typically cost less than a loaded full-size SUV. feature leather seating, central air conditioning, home theater-quality sound and flat-panel

GM's investment in the effort underscores the ultra-competitive nature of the U.S. vehicle market, where the world's largest automaker can't afford to cede one iota of business. GM's chief competitor: cross-town rival and No. 2 U.S. automaker Ford Motor

"With the proliferation of vehi-

#### **Down-shifting**

As sales of sport utility vehicles rose over the past decade, van sales fell sharply.



Marketing Association

cles over time - SUVs, crossovers, etc. - this is one more niche vehicle we can offer the consumer," said Ross Hendrix, GM's marketing director for commercial vans. "We see an opportunity and we're pursuing it.'

Conversion van sales peaked in the early 1990s but have fallen steadily over the past 10 years because of the popularity of hulking SUVs. Sales totaled roughly 181,000 in 1994, fell to 76,000 in 2000 and dropped even further to 38,000 in 2003, when Dodge ended production of its full-size Ram vans, according to Conversion Van Marketing Association figures. But Dodge added the Sprinter, which is available for conversions, to its lineup in 2003.

That basically limits the choices to the two GM models, the

Sprinter and Ford's E-Series model. Virtually every major automaker, in contrast, sells some type of SUV.

The CVMA is composed of 24 manufacturers who buy the vans from GM, outfit them with premium paint, electronics and customized interiors and sell them to GM dealers for sale to consumers. About 800 of GM's 7,400 dealers sell conversion vans, according to the CVMA, which would like to increase that number as well.

The CVMA's goal is to boost sales of GM vans by 25 percent in the next two years by raising awareness through a Web site, direct mail and other avenues, said association president Rod Mc-Sweeney, owner of Southern Comfort Conversions Inc in Truss-

The timing for the push is ideal, McSweeney said, because of the metamorphosis of the vans over the past several years. After upgrading the chassis in 1996, giving it a smoother ride, GM enhanced the styling and added an all-wheel-drive option in 2003. making the vans more feasible for those in colder, icy climates.

GM contributed \$2.1 million to the marketing effort, which Mc-Sweeney said will target outdoor enthusiasts, college alumni groups with a penchant for tailgating and others who might be ready to trade their SUVs for premium vans that can seat up to

nine. CVMA also plans to showcase the vans at this month's American International Auto Show in Detroit.

McSweeney and other converters say one of their biggest selling points is price. A conversion van, they say, can cost several thousand dollars less than a full-size Chevrolet Tahoe or Ford Excursion SUV, whose prices can climb to \$45,000 or higher.

"The thing we've lacked the most is basic awareness," said Joe Smucker, whose company, Santa Fe Vans in Elkhart, Ind., shins converted vans to dealers in 48 states.

Barb Sawher of Clyde Township, Mich., said she recently chose one of Smucker's customized vans because of its all-wheel-drive feature, which the mother of four says helps her navigate the sometimes icv roads in Michigan as well as any SUV.

"When you think of conversion vans for my generation, you think of hippies, beads and shag carneting," Sawher said. "Now there are cup holders everywhere, convenient places and pockets to store things, a television screen that folds down so the kids can watch DVDs '

Ford said it also works with dealers and outfitters to promote the conversion van business, but it has no plans for a CVMA-style effort. One ongoing initiative is a 310.000-piece direct-mail campaign that includes a \$500 gift card for a van purchase.

Art Spinella, president of CNW Marketing Research in Bandon Ore., said an effective campaign by the CVMA could provide a nice lift to GM's business. His research shows the vans' refinements have created one of the most loval buyer segments in the

"What we find, for the most part, is they're considered a lot more comfortable than minivans and certainly roomier than sport utility vehicles," Spinella said. "Seventy percent of owners say they'll buy another, and 90 percent will recommend them to friends."

#### Bad brakes problem on Autobahn

#### Click and Clack

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

I live in Germany, and I love our show. I have a 1995 Buick Skylark with 120,000 miles on it. I often drive 80 to 90 mph on the Autobahn. I find I must change my front brakes (and often my ro-tors) about every four to six months. Why is this happening? Additionally, when I am coming to a stop and am not at a high speed the brake pedal sometimes goes all the way to the floor, as if I have lost all braking power. I do not see any leaking brake fluid. I've had four mechanics check it out, and they tell me my brakes are fine but I don't believe them Any ideas about what is going on

possibilities, Frank, but I'm going to guess that you have a bad power-brake booster. When you step on the brake pedal, you activate the booster. The booster uses the engine vacuum to amplify the force of your foot and make stopping easier.

here? — Frank
RAY: Well, there are several

stopping easier.

TOM: The way the booster often
fails is by not releasing the brakes
all the way. So when you're driving around town and using your brakes a lot, your brakes are slowly being applied more and more,

even though you don't know it.

RAY: It's as if you're driving with your brakes partially applied As you can imagine, that wears out vour brakes pretty quickly. Like four to six months.

every four to six months. TOM: It can also explain why your pedal goes to the floor on ocon. When the brakes are in constant use, they eventually overheat.

RAY: This is definitely a problem you want to solve quickly. Frank. If a giant weinerschnitzel suddenly fell off a truck in front of you and you needed to stop short, you could find yourself in very deep sauerkraut. Am I mixing my food metaphors here?

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Name	Div	PE	Last	Chg	Š
Alliant Technosystem		16	64.00	+.70	-2.3
Armor Holdings		30	45.56	+2.05	-3.
Boeing	1.00	15	50.81	+.83	-1.
Computer Sciences		18	54.32	24	-3.
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	21	56.10	37	-5.
General Dynamics	1.44	17	99.27	10	-5.
General Electric	.88	23	35.93	22	-1.
Halliburton	.50		37.58	48	-4.
Harris Corp.	.48	26	56.85	62	-8.
Allied Signal	.83	21	34.57	10	-2.
L-3 Communications	.40	21	68.97	+.91	-5.
Lockheed Martin	1.00	20	54.63	+1.34	-1.
NorthroG s	.92	19	53,30	+.80	-1.
Raytheon	.80	42	36.88	+.30	-5.
Rockwell Intl.	.66	22	46.99	-1.01	-5.
Segua Corp.	-	36	59.99	+.29	-1.
Texas Instruments	.10	21	22.89	71	-7.
Textron Inc.	1.40	31	71.00	+.20	-3.
United Technologies	1.40	19	101.05	76	-2.



#### **EXCHANGE RATES**

Dollar buvs€0.7388
Dollar buys
Jananese ven (Jan 8) 102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 7)1,018.00
Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)
Canada (Dollar)1.231
Canada (Dollar)
Denmark (Krone)5.32
Egypt (Pound)
Egypt (Pound)
Hong Kong (Dollar)7.7945
Hungary (Forint)186.50
Iceland (Krona)61.44
Israel (Shekel)
Japan (Yen)
Kuwait (Dinar)0.29191
Norway (Krone) 5.93 Philippines (Peso) 56.24
Philippines (Peso)56.24
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)3.59
Singapore (Dollar)1.6505
South Korea (Won)1.060.00
Switzerland (Franc)1.11
Turkev (New Lira)1.4015
available to customers at military bank-
ing facilities in the country of issuance
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the
for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.
For nonlocal currency exchange rates
(i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germa-
ny), check with your local military bank-
ing facility. Commercial rates are inter-
bank rates provided for reference when
buying currency. All figures are foreign
currencies to one dollar, except for the
British pound, which is represented in
dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is
dollars-to-euro.)
donars to care.)

#### **PRECIOUS METALS**

#### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5 2
Discount rate	3.2
	2.2
3-month bill	2.3
30-year bond	4.8
Sources: The Associated Press, Banl	k a
America	

## cents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

#### Being more productive

CBS MarketWatch

NEW YORK - Though improving yourself at work may not have made it onto your list of New Year's resolutions, there's still time to tack it on.

Julie Morgenstern, author of the new book "Making Work Work: New Strategies for Surviving and Thriving at the Office,' offers three simple resolutions you can make that will boost your productivity and make you a more valued employee:

■ Reassess how you handle in-

terruptions.

Choose your tasks wisely.

Tackle the big tasks that are closest to your company's revenue line first

Avoid vour e-mail for the first hour of the day. Compulsively checking your e-mail keeps you unfocused and breaks up your tasks for the day, Morgenstern says.



#### **EUROPEAN FORECAST**

Benelux: Cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s, Saturday lows in the low 40s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with isolated rainshowers and strong winds. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 30s to low

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the low 40s to low 50s, Saturday lows in the upper 20s to low 30s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy. Highs in the low to upper 50s, Saturday lows in the low 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s, Saturday lows in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Highs in the mid to upper 40s, Saturday lows in the mid 30s to low

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 40s, Saturday lows in the low

Northern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s to mid 50s, Saturday lows in the low 30s to low

Southern Italy: Sunny. Highs in the mid 50s to low 60s, Saturday lows in

Kosovo: Partly to mostly cloudy with morning fog. Highs in the low to mid 40s, Saturday lows in the mid to upper 20s.

Norway: Cloudy with rain. Highs in the mid to upper 40s, Saturday lows in the upper 20s to upper 30s.

Portugal, Spain: Sunny. Highs in the low 50s in the central region to mid 60s in near the coast, Saturday lows in the low 30s to low 40s.

Turkey: Mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers. Highs in the upper 40s to low 50s, Saturday lows in the mid

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

page at: https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

### SUN & MOON

Sunrise (Ba Sunrise (Fr Sunset (Ba	ankfurt) ghdad)	Today 7:08am 8:23am 5:12pm	7:08am 8:23am 5:13pm
Sunset (Fra	ankturt)	4:41pm	4:43pm
New moon	First qtr.	Full moon	Last qtr.

#### TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOI

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PCIO) 44 40 22 80 55 53 36 57 75 25 32 79 47 67 29 47 41 23 46 56 40 55 64 40 80 60 26 21 69 31 24 8 65 47 47 29 5 5 7 18 18 7 1 5 5 3 2 1 41 3 7 6 37 5 0 36 30 5 8 30 40 69 36 12 8 60 50 PCity PCity Snow PCity Rain PCity Cli PCity PCity PCity Rain PCity Rain Cldy PCldy PC 355 663 41 34 63 50 39 77 30 19 31 19 58 44 33 39 40 25 11 35 30 44 33 51 31 40 29 14 25 58 4671 44 45 32 54 32 18 42 32 34 45 60 40 30 37 38 41 38 59 26 41 55 52 35 23 51 41 84 40 36 537 3545 448 252 57 455 488 257 1839 47 448 343 253 6847 57 5931 77 4 Corpus Christi Dallas-Ft Worth Daytona Be Denver Des Moines Detroit Duluth El Paso Elkins PCId PCId Cid PCid Snow PCid 55 PCdy 62 PCdy 24 PCdy 19 PCdy 45 PCdy 45 PCdy 43 Rain 39 Cdy 37 PCdy 68 PCdy 68 PCdy 20 Cf 30 Cdy 27 PCdy 35 PCdy 22 Snow PCiby PCiby Ciby PCiby Snow POId POId POId Rain POId POId POId PCidy Rain Rain PCidy PCidy PCidy PCidy Cidy 50 53 49 80 38 50 39 45 Cldy Cldy PCldy Rain Cldy Rain Clr PCId) PCId) Cid)

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Duba



STATES TODAY

Scheduled to ETS or PCS

Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



PAGE 18 STARS AND S

#### Agencies bid for reef

CA VENTURA — Federal and local agencies want to build an artificial reef between Mussel Shoals and Seacliff to combat beach erosion.

The Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans Nourishment, and known as BEACON. and the Army Corps of Engineers applied to the Califor-

Coastal Commission to build the \$2 million reef at the old Mobil Oil Piers site. The commission could schedule

a public hearing soon. If the project is approved, construction is possible as early as this summer.

#### 'Dixie' causes stir

WI MADISON — A high school band's performance of an Elvis Presley hit during the Senate's inaugural ceremony has drawn a complaint from a newly elected member because it included a version of "Dixie."

The Richland Center High School band played a version of "An American Trilogy" at the Capitol — a song that mixes "Dixie" with "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and the spiritual "All My Trials.

To many blacks, "Dixie" is a symbol of racism and slavery.

Sen. Spencer Coggs, who is black, said he was shocked to hear the strains of the Southern anthem and complained in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Dale Schultz.

"Whether the slight was intentional or not, the selection was not appropriate," he wrote. "It is unfortunate that this special day was marred by such an unnecessary event

Schultz said he wasn't aware of every musical selection the band prepared for the event and said he would apologize. "If Sen. Coggs felt offended. I would want to evtend my hand in apology," he said.

#### Free ride to iail

LA SLIDELL — A tourist who called 911 to demand a ride to the bus station instead got a lift to jail.

The St. Tammany Parish sher iff's office said James Brown of St. Louis called from a pay phone and threatened to kill someone if he didn't get a ride to the bus station. When deputies arrived, officials said they found the man intoxicated and helligerent. He was booked on charges of misuse of 911

#### Adirondack protection

ALBANY - The state agreed to protect 104,000 acres of northern Adirondack timberlands from development and provide public recreational access. Gov. George Pataki said. The parcels in Clinton and Franklin counties represent the holdings of Domtar Industries in the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park.

The deal is expected to add 20,000 acres directly to state forests and limited access to another 84,000 acres for hiking, snowmobiling and some ATV use

#### Hispanic baby boom

PHOENIX — More than 39.000 babies were born to



Brentwood Place nursing home told The Dallas Morning News that they were cooperating with repre sentatives from the Medicaid fraud control unit of the Texas attorney general's office in the investigation of David Wavne Rhodes.

#### Skier dies on slopes

KILLINGTON — A 27-year-old Massachusetts man died after falling on one of Killington Resort's most difficult trails and then sliding out of control into trees.

Vermont State Police said Andrew Begley of Cambridge, Mass., apparently lost control while skiing on the Double Dipper trail.

Lt. David Covell said that Begley slid "a significant distance," going off the Double Dipper trail through a roped-off area where Killington snow guns were stored and into the Big Dipper trail before a tree stopped his slide.

"It looks possible that he may have collided with some equipment in that initial closed area he entered." Covell said.

#### Justice sues colleagues

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — A member of Oklahoma's highest court got passed over for chief justice, and now he's suing his eight colleagues because he thinks they skipped him because of his age.

Justice Marian P. Opala, 83, filed the lawsuit in federal district court, charging he was discriminated against when his fellow justices changed a rule to allow the chief justice to serve consecutive terms. The post had been rotated every two years

The rule change in November allowed Chief Justice Joseph M. Watt to succeed himself. Opala would have been in line to lead the count

In his lawsuit, Opala described himself as in good health and of sound mind. He said his age was "a significant factor" in being passed over for chief justice, a post that carries with it "ceremonial duties" and a bigger paycheck. A justice earns an annual salary of \$107,000, the chief justice \$110,000.

#### West Nile cases down

NM SANTA FE — New Mexico had 88 confirmed cases of West Nile virus in 2004, including four deaths, according to the state Department of Health

The total was far less than the 209 cases confirmed in 2003 when four elderly people died of the infection

#### Bobcat iob boost

ND BISMARCK — Gov. John Hoeven's State of the State speech to open the legislative session came with an announcement that the Bobcat company plans to add 100 jobs in Bismarck.

The North Dakota company makes skid-steer loaders and other heavy equipment. Bobcat employs more than 2,600 people in the state and has an annual payroll of more than \$1 billion, Hoeven said.



Mother Nature at work A water spout appears just off the coast of Palos Verdes, Calif., during a break in a winter storm.



Through the fog A train travels in the fog across a bridge spanning the Arkansas River in Fort Smith, Ark. The warmer air temperatures hovering over the cooler water created the foggy mist.



Wading in the water Audrey Morrison, left, and her sister, Brittney, play in the water just off shore at Lake Nicol in Tuscaloosa, Ala. The outing started as a fishing trip but turned into wading in the lake when the fishing line became snagged. The two were accompanied by their father, Jerrold Morrison. and grandmother Katherine Morrison.

#### mals are harassing livestock. Fake nurse investigated

DALLAS - A man who worked without a nursing license at a retirement home is under investigation by state regula-

**AMERICAN** 

ROUNDUP

Hispanic women in Arizona in

2003, compared with about 38,800

babies born to Anglo women that year, according to state statistics.

The numbers reflect the state's

"Every demographer I've talked

to thinks the majority of Arizona's

population will be Hispanic by

2035 or 2045," said Loui Olivas, a

professor at Arizona State Univer-

Controlling wild wolves

BOISE — Idaho and Mon-tana will get more authority

to manage gray wolves under a

new rule adopted by the federal

government, wildlife officials an-

The rule which takes effect Feb.

2, gives the states and private land-

owners more control in curbing

wolf attacks on livestock, domestic

Ed Bangs, wolf recovery team

leader for the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service, said the new rule

would especially help private land-

owners by allowing wolves to be

killed without prior written approv-

al if ranchers can prove the ani-

animals and wild game herds.

nounced.

rapidly growing Hispanic popula-



Arizona snow angel Alister Marshall, 4, makes a snow angel in Thorpe Park in Flagstaff, Ariz. Marshall came to Flagstaff with his family from Phoenix to play in the snow



Braving the winter

A woman braces against the cold and blowing snow as she walks down 17th Street in downtown Denver.



Letting off steam

Steam rises from Mount St. Helens in Wasington state.



Vegas afterglow

Lights from hotel-casinos on the Strip reflect on low-passing clouds during a storm in Las Vegas.

#### Historic hat purchased

AK ANCHORAGE — A rare 19th-century Alaska Native spruce root hat adorned with beads and sea lion whiskers will stay in the state after its purchase by two Alaska museums.

The Alutiiq Museum of Kodiak and the Anchorage Museum of History and Art combined to buy the Alutiiq spruce root hunting hat from a Juneau family, which had offered the artifact Dec. 6 at a Bonhams and Butterfields Auction in San Francisco. The price was \$160,250.

"This is the first one that is going

to be here in Alaska," said Sven Haakanson Jr., executive director of the Alutiiq Museum.

The Alutiiq people traditionally lived between Southcentral Alaska and the Alaska Peninsula. Most were on Kodiak Island, America's second-largest island after Hawaii.

#### Asbestos closes school

HI HONOLULU — Students at King Intermediate School along Windward Oahu are going to get an even longer break from classes that previously expected, public school officials said.

The school was closed Dec. 15, three days before winter recess was set to begin, so campus buildings could be cleaned of asbestos.

The school was to reopen after winter vacation and intersession. But state Schools Superintendent Patricia Hamamoto said inclement weather delayed testing results and any subsequent cleaning that could be necessary.

Classes at King Intermediate are now set to resume Jan. 13th, she said.

#### Don't forget the horses

KY LOUISVILLE — A group of Kentucky horse breeders and farm owners has launched a billboard campaign showing how tenuous the state's claim as the horse capital could become.

Billboards along a stretch of Interstate 64 in Louisville proclaim, "Welcome to New York, Horse Capital of the World."

The Kentucky Equine Education Project is paying for eight to 10 billboards in Louisville and Lexington and several more in Frankfort over the next few months.

Claria Horn Shadwick, KEEP's executive director, said the billboards are part of the group's goal of educating the state about the economic importance of horses in Kentucky.

"It's an extension of KEEP's educational phase, which is to make the point pretty forcefully and bluntly that our state can't take the industry for granted," she said

#### Bartender held hostage

GOWANDA — A western New York man said to be grieving the death of a family member took a bartender hostage and opened fire on police during a four-hour standoff that ended only after he passed out drunk, authorities said.

Dale Covert was facing a charge of attempted murder after firing a single round at a Gowanda police officer, State Police Maj. Michael Manning said.

Police responded to the Palm Gardens restaurant lounge 30 miles south of Buffalo around 3

p.m. after receiving a report of a man brandishing a gun inside the establishment, where Covert was holding a female bartender.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m., the bartender emerged from the bar, unharmed. Covert, who was drinking heavily, then passed out, Manning said.

#### Politicians admit bribe

BROWNSVILLE — Two former Willacy County commissioners pleaded guilty to accepting bribes for their votes on federal prison contracts.

Jose Jimenez, 67, of Sebastian.

and Israel Tamez, 58, of Raymondville, waived indictment and admitted accepting more than \$10,000 each from companies competing for work on the Willacy County Adult Correctional Center. The \$14.5 million prison was being built to house federal inmates.

Federal prosecutors say the men accepted the bribes between June 2000 and March 2003.

Both men are free on \$50,000 personal recognizance bonds. They have agreed to cooperate with an ongoing investigation by the FBI, Texas Rangers, and Willacy County Sheriff's Department.

Each faces up to 20 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine at their April 11 sentencing.

#### Help for drug addicts

PIKEVILLE — Gov. Ernie Fletcher unveiled a \$9.5 million initiative to help pay for the construction and operation of 10 recovery centers for drug addicts.

The effort would focus on homeless people. Fletcher said he expects two of the centers to be in eastern Kentucky, where police are combating what has been called an epidemic of prescription drug abuse.

#### N.J. losing millionaires

NEWARK — The number of millionaires in New Jersey declined, an annual report showed.

The report said 8,300 Garden

State residents reported taxable income of \$1 million or more in 2002, the fewest since 1998 and far short of the peak of 12,365 posted in 2000.

The report also showed that total

income in New Jersey declined for the second straight year.

#### Musket shoot will go on

NC CHARLOTTE — A teenager was killed during a rural town's New Year's tradition of firing vintage black-powder muskets into the air, but town officials declared that the centuries-old ritual would continue to be celebrated.

During the revelry, a rifle exploded and pieces of the barrel struck 18-year-old Matthew K. Shook in the side of the head.

"There's no effort in place here to end the practice," Mayor Bob Austell said in a telephone interview. "This is something that been going on in Cherryville for more than 200 years. We have grandsons firing off muskets that once belonged to their grandfathers."

Austell conceded, however, it was time to review safety standards for the "New Year's Shoot" in Cherryville, a town of 5,400 about 40 miles west of Charlotte.

Stories and photos from wire service

			AFR	TS Televisio	n Schedule			
		Updated sports listi	ngs are available on the first	Scoreboard page in the spi	orts section or AFN's Web si	te at http://myafn.dodmedia.	osd.mil/	
	(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	7, 2005 (AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00	Stanley	Movie "Remembrance" (1996)	Dr. Phil	Jeopardy!	Nightline	PGA Golf Mercedes Champi-	30-Minute Meals	Jeopardy!
9:30	Sagwa-Siamese Cat	Eva LaRue, Angie Dickinson. A	Ī	Headline News	Headline News	onshins - First Bound From	Easy Entertaining-Chiarello	Headline News
10:00	Arthur (EI)	woman marries into a political family and finds tragedy.	(9:46) Oprah Winfrey	ESPNews	Hardball With Chris Matthews	the Plantation Course at Ka- palua in Kapalua, Hawaii.	Decorating Cents	ESPNews
10:30	Reading Rainbow (EI)	(10:48) Movie **s "Multi-	(:35) Guiding Light	Advisory Block King of the Hill	The O'Reilly Factor	(Taped)	The Look for Less El News Live	Pacific Report King of the Hill
11:00	Sagwa-Siamese Cat Stanley "Woodpecker Woes"	plicity" (1996) Michael Keaton. Scientifically created duplicates	(:17) General Hospital	That '70s Show "I'm a Boy"	The O helly ractor		The King of Queens	That '70s Show "I'm a Boy"
12:00	Dora the Explorer (EI)	Scientifically created duplicates complicate a man's life.	Headline News	Meet My Folks "The Maloneys, Part I"	Primetime Thursday	SportsCenter	That '70s Show	Wife Swap "Pitts/Policchio"
12:30	The Wiggles "Friends"	Movie ++*Dr. Quinn. Medicine	Judge Judy	Part I'	Fox and Friends		Girlfriends Charmed "The Painted World"	Fear Factor
13:00	Bob the Builder Dragon Tales (EI)	Woman: The Movie" (1999) Jane	Today Dorothy Hamill; Broad- way on los; It's CojoTime.	Fear Factor	Fox and Friends	College Basketball Gonzaga	Charmed The Painted World	Fear Factor
14:00	Blue's Clues	Seymour, Joe Lando.	' ' '	Pacific Report	Fox and Friends	at Santa Clara. (Live)	Ally McBeal "The Wedding"	Pacific Report
14:30	Barney & Friends Exercise.	(:42) Movie ★★★ "Ghost"		The Tonight Show				The Tonight Show
15:00 15:30	Funniest Home Videos Full House	(1990, Fantasy) Patrick Swayze, Demi Moore, Whoopi	Teacher's Pet (EI) What's New Scooby-Doo?	Late Show	American Morning	SportsCenter	Any Day Now Rene must de- fend Mary Elizabeth in court.	Late Show
16:00	Pokémon	Goldberg. A murder victim re- turns to save his beloved fi-	Ozzy & Drix	Late Silow	CNN Live Today	Sportscenter	Third Watch "Patterns"	Late Show
16:30	Yu-Gi-Oh! "Mind Game"	ancee.	The Brothers Garcia	Access Hollywood	1	College Gamenight		Access Hollywood
17:00	Doug (EI)	Dana Carvey Revealed Com- ic-actor Dana Carvey	Jeopardy!	Headline News The Late Late Show		SportsCenter	Law & Order "Refuge" (Part 1 of 2)	Headline News The Late Late Show
17:30 18:00	Rocket Power The Fairly OddParents	Hollywood Backstories	Headline News ESPNews	The Late Late Show	FOX News	Inside the NFL	The Simpsons	The Late Late Show
18:30	Rugrats	Entertainment Tonight	Headline News	Dennis Miller	i ox nens	inside the in E	Everybody Loves Raymond	Dennis Miller
19:00	All Grown Up	Movie ★¼ "Blue Streak"	King of the Hill		Primetime Thursday	ESPNews	Charmed "Witch Wars"	
19:30	Dave the Barbarian Danny Phantom	(1999) Martin Lawrence, Luke Wilson. A thief poses as a cop	That '70s Show 'I'm a Boy' Wife Swap "Pitts/Policchio"	Countdown-Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com	FOX News	College Basketball Arizona at California. (Live)	Boston Public "Chapter Forty-	Countdown-Olbermann Entertainment Studios.com
20:00	Drake & Josh "Guitar"	to retrieve a hidden diamond.	Wile Swap Pills/Policollo	Entertainment Studios.com	POX News	Canonia. (Erro)	Two"	Entertainment Studios.com
21:00	That's So Raven	(8:48) Movie * * * "Return to	Fear Factor	Good Morning America	Studio B With Shepard Smith	1	Blue Planet: Seas of Life	Good Morning America
21:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch	Me" (2000) David Duchovny. A man falls in love with the recipi-				1st & 10	Predators utilize tidal marshes.	
22:00	Switched! Radio Free Roscoe	ent of his wife's heart.	Headline News The Tonight Show		Your World With Neil Cavuto	NFL Live SportsCenter	Friends Seinfeld "The Opera"	
23:00	The Cosby Show	Movie + x "Friday" (1995) Ice	The foriight Show	Oobi (Left in Progress)	Lester Holt Live	Around the Horn	The Daily Show	Oobi
23:30	Home Improvement	Cube, Chris Tucker.	Late Show	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)		Pardon the Interruption	Blind Date	
				SATURDAY, JANUAR	Y 8, 2005			
00:00	Aaahh! Real Monsters Rocket Power	(11:00) Movie "Friday" (1995) (:44) Movie *** "From	(11:30) Late Show Access Hollywood	All Grown Up Powerpuff Girls!	Headline News NBC Nightly News	SportsCenter	Late Night	All Grown Up Dave the Barbarian
1:00	SpongeBob SquarePants	Here to Eternity" (1953, Dra-	NFL Live	Danny Phantom	ABC World News Tonight	PGA Golf Mercedes Champi-	Charmed "Witch Wars"	Danny Phantom
1:30	Rugrats Stu gets amnesia.	ma) Burt Lancaster, Deborah Kerr Explores tensions and	NBA Shootaround	Drake & Josh "Guitar"	CBS Evening News	onships Second Round. From the Plantation Course at Ka-		Drake & Josh "Guitar"
2:00	All Grown Up	passions of Pearl Harbor sol-	NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Minnesota Timber-	The Mummy	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	palua in Kapalua, Hawaii. (Live)	Boston Public "Chapter Forty- Two"	That's So Raven
2:30 3:00	Dave the Barbarian Danny Phantom	diers. Movie * x "Blue Streak"	wolves. From the Target Center	Operation Junkyard (EI) Radio Free Roscoe	Hannity & Colmes		Blue Planet: Seas of Life	Switched! Radio Free Roscoe
3:30	Drake & Josh "Guitar"	(1999) Martin Lawrence, Luke	in Minneapolis. (Live)	American Adventurer	1 '		Predators utilize tidal marshes.	American Adventurer
4:00	That's So Raven	Wilson. A thief poses as a cop to retrieve a hidden diamond.		NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers. From the			Friends	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Portland Trail Blazers, From the
4:30	Sabrina, the Teenage Witch Sesame Street (FI)	(4:48) Movie * * * "Return to	ESPNews	Rose Garden in Portland, Ore.	Nightly Business Report Lou Dobbs Tonight	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Lakers.	Seinfeld "The Opera"	Rose Garden in Portland, Ore.
5:00	Sesame Street (CI)	Me" (2000) David Duchovny. A	ESPNews	(Live)	Lou Dobbs Torright	From Staples Center in Los An-	Breathingspace Yoga Caribbean Workout	(Live)
6:00	Barney & Friends (EI)	man falls in love with the recipi- ent of his wife's heart	Headline News		Larry King Live	geles. (Live)	Body Shaping	
6:30	Blue's Clues Planet's Funniest Animals	Movie *** "Howards End"	Headline News	ESPNews WWF Raw	NewsNight With Aaron Brown	0	Every Woman Beautiful Homes-Estates	ESPNews WWE Raw
7:00 7:30	Amazing Animal Videos	(1992, Drama) Anthony Hoo-	Clifford's Puppy Days (EI)	WWE HAW	NewsNight with Aaron Brown	SportsCenter	Curb Appeal	WWE HaW
8:00	Lilo & Stitch '627'	kins, Emma Thompson, Based on E.M. Forster's tale of class	All Grown Up	Headline News	BET Nightly News	Inside the NFL	Landscapers' Challenge	Headline News
8:30	Teamo Supremo (EI)	inequities.	Dave the Barbarian	Navy/Marine Corps News	Tavis Smiley		Weekend Warriors	Navy/Marine Corps News
9:00 9:30	Static Shock (Part 1 of 2) Kim Possible "Motor Ed" (EI)	(:40) Movie ** * "The Blues	Danny Phantom Drake & Josh "Guitar"	Access Hollywood	Nightline Air Force TV News	NBA Basketball Philadelphia 76ers at Minnesota Timber-	Clean House	Access Hollywood
10:00	Teen Titans	Brothers" (1980, Comedy)	That's So Raven	Headline News	Hardball With Chris Matthews	wolves. From the Target Center	BBQ With Bobby Flav	Headline News
10:30	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turt.	John Belushi, Dan Aykroyd. Two musicians reassemble their	Switched!	ESPNews	1	in Minneapolis. (Taped)	\$40-a-Day	ESPNews
11:00	Dragonball GT Justice League	band for a fund-raiser.	Radio Free Roscoe American Adventurer	George Lopez "Charity" Half & Half	The O'Reilly Factor	SportsCenter	Fashion Police It's Good to Be	According to Jim Half & Half
11:30 12:00	Justice League Teen Kids News (EI)	(:05) Movie ** * "Victor/Vic-	American Adventurer Access Hollywood	Half & Half CSI: Miami "Deadline"	Dateline NBC	Sports Center	101 Most Unforgettable SNL	Half & Half CSI: Miami "Deadine"
12:30	Tutenstein (EI)	toria" (1982, Comedy) Julie	· ·		I	Inside the NFL	Moments	
13:00	Trading Space: Boy-Girl	Andrews, James Garner. A fe- male entertainer finds fame by	WWE Raw	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lowdown"	CNN Saturday Morning		Intimate Portrait "Liz Tilberis"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Lowdown"
13:30 14:00	Scout's Safari "Ghost Cat" Skunked TV "Dog for a Day"	posing as a man in drag.	According to Jim	Headline News	Economy Watch	NBA Basketball Houston Rockets at Los Angeles Lakers.	Antiques Roadshow "Las Ve-	Headline News
14:00		(:35) Movie *** "Golden-	Half & Half	Saturday Night Live	1	From Staples Center in Los An- geles. (Live)	gas, Nevada" (Part 1 of 3)	Saturday Night Live
15:00	The Most Extreme "Body Parts" Appendages.	Eye" (1995, Adventure) Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean, James	CSI: Miami "Deadline"	1	CNN Saturday Morning		Star Trek: Voyager "Projec- tions"	
15:30	Hercules: The Legendary	Bond enters Russia to retrieve	Law & Order: Special Victims	Kickin' It Latest in music and	Bulls and Bears	NFL Live SportsCenter	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and
16:00 16:30	Journeys	stolen weapon codes.	Unit "Lowdown"	trends.	Cavuto on Business	Sportscenter	nipley's believe it or Not	trends.
17:00	Doug "Doug's Patti Beef"	Movie * * * "The Termina-	Headline News	The Entertainers	Forbes	NFL Countdown	Fear Factor	The Entertainers
17:30	Rocket Power	tor" (1984, Science Fiction) Arnold Schwarzenegger, Linda	Navy/Marine Corps News		America's Black Forum			
18:00	The Fairly OddParents Rugrats	Hamilton, Michael Biehn.	SportsCenter	Women's College Basketball Teams TBA. (Live)	CNN Live Saturday	College Basketball Maryland at North Carolina. (Live)	What Not to Wear Laura gets wardrobe help.	Women's College Basketball Teams TBA. (Live)
	Movie + + + x "Shrek" (2001	Movie ** "Along Came a	NBA Hangtime		War Stories With Oliver North		Trading Spaces	,
18:30 19:00		Spider" (2001) Morgan Free-	NBA Basketball Regional Cov-				• •	
19:00 19:30	Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers,	man Alox Cross probas # = 1:-1			Wall Street Journal	College Basketball Oklahoma	Tru Calling "Star Crossed"	Women's College Basketball
19:00 19:30 20:00	Eddie Murphy.	Spider" (2001) Morgan Free- man. Alex Cross probes the kid- napping of a senator's daughter.	erage Deriver Nuggets at San Antonio Sours or New York	Women's College Basketball			iru Calling Star Crossed	
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30	Fantasy) Voices of Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy. Movie **"North" (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood,	napping of a senator's daughter.	San Antonio Spurs or New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers.	Women's College Basketball Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)	Air Force TV News	State at Texas Tech. (Live)	-	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)
19:00 19:30 20:00	Eddie Murphy.  Movie ** "North" (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood, Bruce Willis, Jon Lovitz.	napping of a senator's daughter.  Movie *** "Signs" (2002)  Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix.	San Antonio Spurs or New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live)	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)	Air Force TV News Next at CNN	State at Texas Tech. (Live)	1-800-Missing "White Whale" A serial killer is on the lose.	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00	Eddie Murphy.  Movie * * "North" (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood, Bruce Willis, Jon Lovitz.  My So-Called Life "Dancing in	napping of a senator's daughter.  Movie *** "Signs" (2002)  Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix.  Aliens invade a former clergy-	San Antonio Spurs or New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live) NFL Pregame (Live)	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)  NFL Pregame (Live)	Air Force TV News	State at Texas Tech. (Live)  College Basketball Illinois at	1-800-Missing "White Whale" A serial killer is on the lose. Friends	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)  NFL Pregame (Live)
19:00 19:30 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30	Eddie Murphy.  Movie ** "North" (1994, Comedy-Drama) Elijah Wood, Bruce Willis, Jon Lovitz.	napping of a senator's daughter.  Movie *** "Signs" (2002)  Mel Gibson, Joaquin Phoenix.	San Antonio Spurs or New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers. (Live)  NFL Pregame (Live)  NFL Football AFC or NFC	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)  NFL Pregame (Live)  NFL Football AFC or NFC	Air Force TV News Next at CNN	State at Texas Tech. (Live)	1-800-Missing "White Whale" A serial killer is on the lose.	Tennessee at Connecticut. (Live)



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#### **FACES**

#### Ashlee Simpson booed at Orange Bowl

Ashlee Simpson's Orange Bowl halftime performance was a lemon, according to the 72,000-plus Miami crowd. The 20-year-old singer received a discernible chorus of boos following a performance of her song "La La."

boos following a performance of her song "La La."

"You make me wanna scream," she sang before the audience jeered.

Simpson was among a trio of halftime performers Tuesday night in a game that saw Southern California overwhelm Oklahoma 55-19. The camera cut away from her face as

the booing began.

The negative vocal reaction came months after Simpson's performance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," which revealed she used background vocal tracks. The mishap was later attributed to acid reflux disease.

Simpson

However, the Orange Bowl crowd did have a reason to cheer. The Walt Disney Co, gave a theme park ticket to every fan. The giveaway, a promotion that could cost as much as \$4.3 million if all the tickets are used, is in honor of the 50th anniversary of its Disnevland park in California.

#### Dick Clark coming along after stroke

A month after his stroke, **Dick Clark** remains hospitalized in good spirits while working with rehabilitation specialists.

cialists.

The "American Bandstand" icon watched Regis Philbin host "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve 2005" from his hospital bed and said "he enjoyed the show and thought Regis did a wonderfully professional job," Clark publicist Paul Shefrin said Wednesday.

As promised, Clark kissed his wife, **Kari**, at midnight, the spokesman added.

Clark, 75, was hospitalized at an undisclosed Burbank, Calif., hospital on Dec. 6 after suffering a mild

stroke. Shefrin wouldn't disclose specifics.
There was no word on when Clark would go home. During the ABC-TV New Year's Eve show, fans held up "Get Well Dick" signs. Celebrities, including Madonna, John Travolta, Janet Jackson and others, were shown on videotage expressing best wishes.

#### Bush up. Beckham down in Britain

The most powerful man in Britain is American President Bush, while soccer star David Beckham's sway over British society is in free fall, a men's magazine said Wednesday.

Bush tied with Prime Minister Tony Blair for first place in the list drawn up by the British edition of GQ magazine.

Blair has long faced criticism that he simply follows Bush's orders as his "poodle," but GQ claimed that re-election has given Bush an even bigger say in British life Last year the U.S. president didn't make the ton 100

life. Last year, the U.S. president didn't make the top 100. Beckham plummeted from eighth to 23rd place, reflecting a turbulent year for the England soccer captain in which "the wheels seem to have come off Brand Beckham." GO said.

His marriage to Victoria Beckham, a former Spice Girl, hit the headlines in April when a former personal aide, Rebecca Loos, claimed she and the soccer star had had a 10-day affair. He dismissed the claim as "ludicrous" and "absurd."

#### Price still right for Bob Barker

**Bob Barker** has agreed to continue as host of "The Price Is Right" for a record 34th season, CBS announced. "I was considering retiring this year and going into

bodybuilding with the thought in mind of becoming governor of California," the 81-year-old Emmy-winning game-show host joked.

"But I decided to instead stay with the body I have and the job I have." Barbara Bloom, senior vice president, daytime programs, said Barker and "The Price Is Right" are cornerstones of CBS daytime.

"We're thrilled that Bob has agreed to continue for another year, no doubt delighting his legions of fans across the country," Bloom said in a statement Monday.



# A calculated risk-taker

#### Michael Weatherly gave up the safety net of college to pursue career as an actor

CBS photo

BY LUAINE LEE

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

HOLLYWOOD — When actor Michael Weatherly was 12 years old, his parents sent him away to camp called "Camp Challenge." His mother wanted to toughen him up, he says.

"It was a three-week duration and I had to canoe,

"It was a three-week duration and I had to cance, fight, build my own ax, learn to read a topographic map, compass and we had something called '24-hour survival' where they left us in the woods alone for 24 hours and you had to find food, build a lean-to. That changed me. It either changed me or it broke me," he says. "But when I showed up fat camp II was wearing a white turtleneck and white bell-bottoms. And I was from Connecticut and playing tennis at

the country club. When I came back I was wear-

ing hiking boots and blue jeans and I'd spent some time with some interesting people," he says.

It turns out it was a profitable move in more ways than one. Now as the wiseacre Tony DiNozzo on CBS "NCIS," Weatherly, 36, has to combine those skills along with

his impish sense of humor and considerable acting talent. "He's a federal agent but he has very little regard for towing the line of political correctness or anything like that," he

"I love playing somebody who was kind of a rebel without a cause," says Weatherly.

Weatherly's son, 8-year-old August, is with him today at this Sunday morning breakfast. The two plan a secret outing after Weatherly is done, and it's clear August enjoys his father's company, even if it does mean sitting still in a restaurant booth for an hour. Weatherly, who played Logan on

"Dark Angel," and the evil ex-husband on "Jesse," broke family tradition when he became an actor. And while he underplays it, the subversive move was probably more costly than he admits.

"I grew up in Connecticut, went to an all-boys school and then went away to boarding school ...," he says.

"So I grew up in a very narrow world ... I felt that I didn't know enough about the world at large, and I'm a people-watcher. I love to do that. I wanted to learn about other people. And so it's my endless fasci-

nation with what makes people tick."

Weatherly's parents divorced when he was 15. And he has a pack of half- and stepsiblings because each parent married three times. He also has one blood brother, William

His father, who is the exclusive importer and distributor of the Swiss Army knife, wasn't pleased when Weatherly told him he wanted to quit college in his senior

"He lives in Jamaica half a year, and I called him in Jamaica and said, 'Tru going to move to New York, and I want to be an actor.' He said, 'You should think very carefully about what you are doing because you're closing doors by not finishing your education, and you're not allowing yourse! the opportunity to become what you should one day become — which is probably a mature adult.

So when Weatherly blew out political science for primetime he was on his own.

"In the social hierarchy I took myself down a notch," he says with a nod. Glancing at August, he says, "This is probably not a great thing for future generations, but I didn't want to have a safety net. I thought if I have a safety net, I'll get a job in advertising or something and I won't feel as motivated. I really need-

ed all that motivation ... But I don't think it was ever my father's intention to put me on any kind of a trust fund. We don't have trust fund babies in our family. Once you're 18, you can go to college. And college is paid for, a gift of huge magnitude, but I looked a gift horse in the mouth and became an actor."

There were some struggling years, but Weatherly managed to cop a Snickers commercial and eventually wound up on daytime's "Loving," where he worked with his ex-wife, actress Amelia Heinle.

He wouldn't mind marrying again, he says, and is dating a woman who works in the pharmaceutical industry and doesn't live in California.

He's also dated Rachel Hunter and Jessica Alba.

"I heard a great thing ... about men and women. There are gardeners and there are flowers. You can have a gardener and a flower.

You can have a gardener and a gardener — might be a little boring but they're working hard. But if you have two flowers, nobody's taking care of the garden. Actors have a tendency to be flowers. So nobody's minding the garden."

Looking lovingly at August, he adds, "When I'm hanging out with you I'm sort of a gardener and you're the flower. You bring out the gardener in me."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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#### Hunting is not best approach

Man hasn't needed to obtain sustenance by hunting for a long time. Add up the cost of gear, weapons, ammunition, training, plus four-wheel vehicle to get to the good places, and you'll never convince me of the economic value to hunting. The money spent on gear alone could buy sufficient domestic meat at any market to last a long. long time.

Those who advocate for the sport sanitize their point of view by using terms such as "wildlife management tool" and "humane harvest" to distract from the fact of killing a mammal through violent means. One letter writer feels bad if he thought he'd only wounded an animal ("Hunting is not animal slaughter." Jan. 3). I wonder how the animal felt about it.

Start a program that has professionals trap overstocked animal populations using net capture or other nonviolent techniques then dart the animals for a painless end, or transport them to a facility for equally humane putdown. Meat could be portioned out the same way hunters get it now, with people buying tags, lotteries or charities.

Of course, this nonviolent, economical and common-sense approach would put hunters and others who support the "sport" out of work. It would also eliminate the number of accidental-shooting injuries and deaths. There would be six human beings alive today in Wisconsin had there not been a dispute over a hunting stand

Regarding the comment that hunting is not about "barbaric annihilation of noor defenseless animals." here's a quote from the January edition of Adventure Outdoors: "With a fistful of bow, a quiver loaded with beautiful feathered arrows, a backpack of survival gear and a heart full of primal scream, I hit it, and I hit it hard. A lion

roared in my guts." Perhaps this fellow should leap about in loin cloth and beat a drum; I see nothing civi-

lized in such commentary or point of view.

Col. John C. Hudson Baghdad

#### Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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#### Angry over re-un honuses

I read in Stars and Stripes about the re-enlistment bonuses the reservists and National Guard are getting to stay in the military. I'm active-duty Army and I'm extremely upset about that.

The government is dishing out all this money to keep reservists and National Guardsmen in the military. What about the active-duty soldiers it already has? I can have the same military occupational specialty as a reservist and not get the same bonus he can.

The government isn't giving active duty any incentives to re-enlist. I see that as a slap in the face. We do our job 365 days a year, pull duty and work overtime. Unless the reserve is activated, the only time reservists do the same job we do is one weekend a month, two weeks out of the year.

All the focus is on giving the reserves incentives, like active-duty soldiers don't mean anything. It seems it would be more cost-effective to try to keep the ac-

tive-duty soldiers you already have than to let them leave the Army and have to train new soldiers.

The Army is composed of active duty and reserve. I think the government should do what is necessary to keep both

sides of the service in. For example, why aren't active-duty soldiers in Qatar eligible for the re-enlistment bonus? We are deployed in a danger zone for a vear like everyone else. Granted, we aren't being mortared every day or have to worry about roadside bombs and rocket-propelled grenades like our fellow soldiers up north, but our lives are in danger just like everyone else's. Someone has to be in Qatar. We are supposed to be an Army of One.

Spc. Deandrea Cooke Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar

#### An option to phone cards

I have met many people who spend an enormous amount of money on international phone cards and I would like to impart a better way to phone home: VOIP. or Voice Over Internet Protocol.

If you are an old Internet user like myself, you scoff at the use, but I found out the quality is, in my opinion, much better than cell phones with little or no lag. There are many VOIP companies one can purchase from, just use a stateside company. I have stateside telephone number (city of choice), voice-mail, caller ID, and most of the other normal phone extras, here in South Korea. The cost is really minimal; some companies advertise their products as low as \$20 a month. One note: You need a high-speed con-

nection such as DSL, the company's VOIP adapter, a router and a phone to get it to work (no computer).

Maybe an industrious command will set up free stateside calling in day rooms. And, hopefully our exchanges will sell this product soon.

Peter Newport Taegu, South Korea

## Raising awareness for future disasters

The Providence (R.I.) Journal

he international community has given or pledged billions of dollars to help the tsunami victims. The United States, for its part, has provided crucial help - in money, material and expertise. (We wish rich Arab nations would chip in more to help their fellow Muslims in Indonesia.) A few things bear repeating. One is that faraway places are much "closer" than they used to be. Consider that there are many people of South Asian background in New England; for us, this is a "local" story.

Further, generous Americans should real ize that South Asia can competently deal even with a catastrophe like this. That is not to say that the region won't put to good humanitarian use much of the foreign money and other aid offered since Dec. 26 - although the biggest outside helper might be the U.S. military, with its astonishing ability to get supplies to remote places. Still, the re gion has vast medical, engineering and other technical expertise, and considerable financial resources, too, in India, Thailand and Indonesia.

The tsunami disaster took place in areas with a lot of advanced infrastructure (and much poverty, too), and there were plenty of camera-wielding Westerners to record the horrifying waves. It has received far more attention than such ongoing disasters as the events in Sudan or Congo. In Sudan's Darfur region, many thousands have died in the past year or so; in Congo, millions have died in the past few years. Yet few non-Africans seem to care about those man-made catastrophes American donors should also bear in

mind that natural disasters are fertile ground for waste, not to mention theft. South Asia has some notably corrupt officials, and even U.S. disasters produce fraud. Government aid and insurance money can disappear into dubious places very quickly - witness Florida last hurri-

In any event, we have high hopes that the global relief efforts for South Asia may presage increased international efforts to help victims of future disasters - whether created by people or by nature. The sense of a "family of man" has, hearteningly,

strengthened.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

#### **Doonesbury Flashbacks**









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#### OPINION

## Islamic world is also at conflict with itself

By MARTIN SCHRAM

Scripps Howard News Service

hen we look back, one year from now, we will see that the big story of 2005 was nothing like the mild, myopic goulash that the print pundits and TV chattering heads just dished us as New Year's predic-Bush-this. Hillary-that. about Iraq-this, Social Security-that.

The big story will be that 2005 was the year of Islam vs. Islam.

It will be a year of Islamic conflicts that will erupt explosively in various ways around the planet. Islamic fundamentalist militants, moderates, monarchs, military and nonmilitary autocrats who are funda mentalist and not-so-fundamentalist will clash in Saudi Arabia, the now-forming Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank, Afghanistan, Pakistan and, to varying degrees Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines These will be clashes of ideology, militancy and just plain power-grabbing.

Much has changed in the Islamic world in recent months. In some areas, voices of authority and moderation have begun speaking with increased urgency and persuasive power. But militants, most notably al-Qaida. have begun to turn their terror against Islamic targets of authority, most notably in Saudi Arabia. Put those forces together and the result may well be clashes that could decide whether ours will be a world relatively at peace or plunged into further mindless and bloody wars of terror for years to come.

We know all this now because we have stepped back a few steps, widened our lens a bit. So we can reflect upon the big picture that has been clearly taking shape before our eyes. Even though many didn't see it because media news-deciders too often consid ered these pictures unworthy of display.

In Saudi Arabia, al-Qaida has begun bombing government sites in its escalated campaign to topple the monarchy. For years, Saudi rulers hought themselves time by naving what amounted to protection money so that Osama bin Laden would mount his attacks in any sandbox but theirs. Saudis funded mosques and religious schools that taught militant fundamentalist justifications for acts of terror against the West.

In December, an audiotape apparently recorded by bin Laden praised the bombing of a U.S. consulate in Jeddah and blasted the ruling al-Saud family as "agents of infidels." The Saudis have quietly mounted a major effort to destroy al-Qaida cells and backers operating in their country. The Saudis claim overwhelming success — which may incite al-Qaida to attempt to disprove that with one or more new terror attacks there

The country of bin Laden's birth is populated by those loval to the ruling family. some moderates educated in the West, and militant fundamentalist Muslims. Conventional wisdom says Saudi rulers are too powerful to be toppled. Just as they said in the late 1970s that the Shah could never be top-

As for the Palestinians: Mahmoud Abbas, overwhelming front-runner in their upcoming presidential election, last week declared that the continuing rocket assaults against Israel are "useless" and called on Palestinian militants to stop them

Abbas, a battler on a tightrope, has also declared that he will consider it his job to protect those who launched attacks against Israel in the name of Palestinian freedom and will not turn them over to Israeli authorities. He is the best hope for peace; but it remains



to be seen whether calm heads will suddenly prevail within Hamas and the other groups that have launched terrorist strikes in Israel.

Importantly, in a stunning shift, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt recently declared that Israel's longtime hardliner Ariel Sharon, who is moving to hand over the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians, now appears to be the Palestinians' best chance for forging a lasting peace.

While many U.S. officials have criticized the coverage of the two largest Arab news networks, Al-Jazeera and Al-Arabiya, they are not the same. Abdul Rahman Al-Rashed a Saudi who this year became the head of Al-Arabiya, is a staunch critic of Islamic fundamentalist militants. After more than 300

died when Islamic rebels from Chechnya seized a school, he wrote a newspaper column declaring: "It is a certain fact that not all Muslims are terrorists, but it is equally certain, and exceptionally painful, that almost all terrorists are Muslims. ... We can-not tolerate in our midst those who abduct journalists, murder civilians, explode buses; we cannot accept them as related to us, whatever the sufferings they claim to justify their criminal deeds. "These are the neonle who have smeared

Islam and stained its image. The emergence of Islamic moderates in

positions of power is perhaps the most hopeful sign of all in this time of conflict.

Martin Schram writes political analysis for Scripps Howard News Service.

## Blue vs. red: Different muses, different mind-sets

et me guess. You're tired of red and blue states. Fair enough. So am I. Let me offer an alternative as we march into 2005. Think of America as divided into an Old Testament nation and a New Testament na-

William McKenzie tion.

Old America largely re-sides along the two coasts and in the Upper Midwest. And when it comes to religion and politics, this nation mostly empha-sizes social morality Gaps between rich and poor. Lack of health care. Pollution pouring

All this fits in with Amos, Micah and those Old Testament prophets. They talked about societies being fair and just. And you can hear their values preached in the Lutheran Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Minnesota You also hear them in Catholic churches in places like Altoona. Think Garrison Keillor liberal church values and Democratic strongholds.

Over in New Testament America which runs mostly across the South, West and Rocky Mountains, you get a different empha-sis. Personal morality dominates there: Marital fidelity. No abortions. And certainly no gay weddings

These are people who'll cite you Paul and Romans when discussing homosexuality They'll also look to books like Galatians for instruction in daily living, like keeping your thoughts pure. That's what you'll hear in small Bible churches, evangelical mega-churches and Pentecostal temples in Florida, Texas and Colorado, Think James Dobson's Focus on the Family and GOP voters. Here's the problem: Neither morality is sufficient unto itself. Old Testament nation can talk about social justice, environmental stewardship and racial equality. But the

New Testament nation has a point. What good is all that if you're cheating on your wife or abusing your kids? Personal morality matters - a lot. Likewise, New Testament nation can com-

plain about homosexuality, abortions and adultery. But what good is that if you ignore gays suffering from AIDS? Or single moms unable to earn a good living? Without social compassion, faith becomes hard and cold.

Or, as Paul would say, a clanging cymbal.

What we need is both halves — personal and social morality. That's a tall order. I

admit. But we've had leaders who have combined the two. Jimmy Carter practiced personal piety, even once shocking people as he confessed his lusts. And he understood the social dimensions of his faith, pressing for human rights and decent living standards around the world Religious leaders such as the Rev. Eugene

Rivers get it today. Like a prophet, the Boston Baptist presses local and national leaders to address social issues such as teen violence, drug abuse and AIDS.

The Old Testament land minister also understands the personal morality New Testament America values. As a pastor in inner-city Boston, he's worked with the Bush White House on finding more personal remedies to, say, drug addiction. He understands that a mentor can do wonders when it

The Rev. Marcus Jackson at the New Mount Moriah Baptist Church in Dallas sticks out, too. He can quote the Bible as much as any fellow New Testament resident. And he practices the spiritual discipline a strong faith requires. But he acknowledges personal holiness only takes you so far. Social justice also is biblical, he emphasized in several conversations we had last year about the presidential election

That's what I'm looking for: leaders who can combine justice with piety. ... At some point, we need to bring the Old and New Testament nations together. One without the other leaves us incomplete. Personal morality and social morality need to go together, not compete at the ballot box.

William McKenzie is an editorial columnist for The Dallas Morning News.

#### Mallard Fillmore

The Hollywood "WE RESOWED HHAT WE'D LEAVE HE COUNTRY ...

IF BUSH WASN'T GIVEN HE GATE ...



AT LEAST 'HIL '08...

By BRUCE TINSLEY

#### Horoscope

The sun and Jupiter have terse words, bringing focus to just white words, bringing focus to just white it is we think we deserve. Entitlement is trickly business. Sure, the Zen approach of expecting nothing works for the highly who aren't quite there yet — and don't plan on getting there anytime soon — setting our sights too low

will feel like a mistake.

TONAY'S BIRTHDAY

(January 7). Your excellent
specificare attracts the best to
you this year. This month
features life-banging educational opportunities! Loved
ones learn from you, and their success contributes to your success.

Clear out any communication trouble, and get your living arrangement
in order this month. Change your
financial plan in March for a windfall
in June.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).
Believe in your talent. Beware of the trap of becoming an armchair philosopher or poet when you could rise to

the level of a practicing artist. All of the rewards go to those who are willing to dig in and do the work. TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

It's a big challenge to break out of your fixed mind-set now. It seems that things are as they have been etemally and as they will remain forever. Being around a mentally bendy Aquarius or Libra is the remedy.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). It's go-go-go time. The pace is fast, so not only are mistakes ignored, they are also of little consequence. The quantity of production outweighs its quality in the end. This evening brings riotous fun.

#### CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Young people learn quickly because they have no preconceived notions. It's impossible to learn what you think you know already. A relationship can blossom when you stop anticipating the other person's next move.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Everybody loves a shortcut, and you'll find one that many would benefit know-

**Peanuts** 

ing. Keep it to yourself for a while, though. Your expertise is well earned, and others will respect it more when you don't share so

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Sweet gestures and kind words are exchanged. Friendships develop when you reach out because you want to, not because you've got anything in particular to gain from the interaction.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You're a dear; you're a doll; you're a pall. And this is why so much of your time is at other people's disposal. No one is going to think you're the bad guy if you

say, "I wish I could help you, but I can't."

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). The stars remind you of the physical limitations we all share. Since you can't create more time in the day, in order to improve your life, you'll have to create more value. Aim for a bigger accomplishment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Anywhere people gather to work on health is fabulous for your love life. If you are in a relationship, reinforcing your commitment to health makes you feel sexy. And if single, voull meet others with like

values

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.
19). It seems that your mood depends solely on how a key relationship is going for you. It's time to take the power back that you're so readily giving away. Feast at life's table instead of settling for the crumbs on the floor.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Ask for more — just for the heck of it! People are surprisingly agreeable to your requests. The experiences you gathered from dating Mr./Ms. Wrong will help you make the most of tonight's adventure.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Your self-concept is going through another one of those incremental changes. Experiment by thinking, talking and dressing differently. Discovering a new aspect of yourself is like happening on a sunken treasure.

Creators Syndicate

Bailey

# PARPON ME., I HAVE A QUESTION

WELL, I HAVE SOME THINGS THAT I HAVE TO DO TOCAY...YOU KNOW, ORDWARY THINGS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH LIVING, AND I WAS WONDERING IF I LOULD USE PART OF YOUR YEAR...





















Friday, January 7, 2005 - STARS AND STRIPES - PAGE 25



1'O CELEBRATE, BUT THAT

4E5!

YOU ARE THE LAZIEST CREATURE ON EARTH

# I-7 CRYPTOQUIP Y Q C M C R J K E Y V G B Y X Y M C J G L Q E K X C QYB X 'V R C V J, Y V F A A K V G

S G 'V K F J K Q J S G A Y R J F E G . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU MAKE CASH SELING LARGE COFFEEPOTS, I GUESS THAT MEANS YOU URN YOUR KEEP.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals C

This will satisfy

### Mom right to check Web activity

10-year-old girl who has been playing after school on a Web site for pet lovers. I like to talk to kids older than me - 14- or-15-year-olds. A lot of the boys I've talked to have asked for my picture, so I went to Google and found a picture of a pretty blond girl around 15 years old. I have been sending this picture to all

the people who have asked me for one My mom looked into my e-mail and saw what I had done.

Now she won't allow me on that site or to send pictures, either my own or a stranger's, to anyone

Was she right to look at my e-mail? Is it really dangerous to do what I did?

- Grounded in Orinda, Calif. Dear Grounded: Yes, and yes! When someone asks for your picture, that person is interested in more than just talking about pets. Although you are intelligent, at age 10 you are not experiship with boys who are 14 and 15. And on some level, I think you are already aware of it, or vou would not have sent out pictures of a pretty blond teenage girl who is older. You are lucky to have a mother who is

vigilant and protective of your safety. She may have helped you dodge a bullet

> Dear Abby: After reading the responses to "All Tipped Out's letter, I was reminded of a question that I

have I frequent a certain nightclub, and in the ladies' room there is an array of toiletries and

breath mints There is also a tip jar and an

attendant. I visit the club almost every week, and sometimes I leave a tip and sometimes I don't

One night I was merely looking at a bottle of cologne and the attendant screamed at me that I

could use it only if I left a tip. Another time, I saw a girl eat one of the mints, and the woman demanded money for it

Was this appropriate? I was under the impression that, because I pay a cover charge to get into the club. I was not obligated to put money in the tip jar even if I used the cologne. Besides, doesn't the club pay for the cologne and candy?

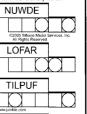
- Would Like to Know Dear Would: The club may pay minimum wage to the attendant, but the supplies she brings — the makeup, perfume, gum, candy, etc., are paid for by the atten-

They are her "concession and her chance to make extra money. The cover charge you pay to get into the club does not include those "extras," so if you use them, you should give the person who provides them a gratuity.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

one letter to each square to form four ordinary words NUWDE



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form the surprise answer, as

suggested by the above cartoon. (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's

TRABEN

AUGUR FOSSII ΔΡΡΔΙΙ Answer: Why the fireman woke before dawn on his day off - A FALSE "ALARM"

## Don't give up on soon-to-be ex

Dear Annie: I have been married for five years. It is the second marriage for both of us, and we each have children from our previous marriages. My wife's 16-year-old son, "Bill." was living with us, and that is the cause of our problems

Bill has been through a lot in his short life. Unfortunately, my wife fails to discipline Bill. This has created tremendous dissension

- in fact, the problem is so bad that we are now going through a divorce.

I have exhausted my pastor and spent hundreds of dollars on counseling with and without her. We both still love each other but have recognized that we cannot live together under the current circumstances.

Last night, she came to the house to get some of her things. One thing led to another, and we ended up making love. Now I don't know what to do. It sounds unhealthy to date your soon-to-be-ex. I do love her, and

Annie's Mailbox



retire in eight years. Should I go with the flow and see what happens, or painfully break it off for good?

- Really, Really Confused

Dear Confused: There is no law that says you can't date your soon-to-be-ex. If your problem is solely that you disagree on disciplining Bill and prefer not to live together while she is raising him. there's no reason not to maintain the relationship until Bill is an adult and on his own, if that is what you wish.

Dear Anie: I have been dating my boyfriend for a year.

Everything has been great, but we are both attending college and he lives six hours away. We communicate every day, and when we are together, we get

along really well. This is a busy and stimulating

time in my life. Often, I find myself feeling very alone at night, and on the weekends I sometimes stay in and talk to my boyfriend on the phone.

I wonder if I am missing out on a singular experience due to my relationship, or if I should hold on to something I think might have a future. Also, I am only 20 and not sure if it is too early to know if I am really in love.

- Confused Dear Confused: Your age isn't the issue — but the fact that you aren't certain, and think you may he missing out, is cause to reas sess things. It means you might later regret not taking advantage of the social life available during

these college years. Your boyfriend could feel the same way, so discuss with him the possibility of both of you dating others.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annies-mailbox@comeast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA \$0045. Creators Syndicate

**Family Circus** 



"This is better than talkin' by e-mail, huh, Grandma?"

# Dennis 1 USE GA





"Mr. Matthews! Mr. Matthews! I just came back fro the restroom and Hodges here took my seat! ... It's my turn for the window seat. Mr. Matthews!"



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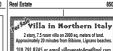
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ation Guide Saturdays STARS STRIPES

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# Johnson, Yanks agree on contract extension

The Associated Pres

NEW YORK — Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a \$32 million, two-year contract extension, The Associated Press learned.

The Big Unit waived his no-trade clause as part of the agreement, a baseball official and a person close to Johnson said on condition of anonymity.

Arizona's trade with New York,

Arizona's trade with New York, which was tentatively agreed to last week, calls for the Diamondbacks to receive pitchers Javier Vazquez and Brad Halsey, catcher Dioner Navarro and \$9 million.

Only one step remains for the five-time Cy Young Award winner to join the Yankes: All players involved in the trade must pass physicals.

The Yankees, Diamondbacks and agents for the players were working Thursday on the logistics of arranging the medical eyams

Johnson would join a starting rotation that includes Mike Mussina, Kevin Brown, Carl Pavano, Jaret Wright. Tanyon Sturtze is viewed as a possible sixth starter should Brown, who has had back problems, get hurt again.

The 41-year-old left-hander's current deal calls for a \$16 million salary in 2005, of which \$6 million is deferred at 2 percent interest. New York and Johnson's agents, Alan Nero and Barry Meister, were completing the structure of the new contract Thursday.

#### **MLB** briefs

Arizona also has a preliminary agreement in place to trade Navarro and pitching prospect William Juarez to Los Angeles for outfielder Shawn Green and S8 million. That deal is contingent on the Diamondbacks and Green agreeing to an extension, but the status of those talks was unclear Thursday.

#### Ponson apologizes for involvement in fight in Aruba

ORANJESTAD, Aruba — Baltimore Orioles pitcher Sidney Ponson apologized for his involvement in a Christmas Day fight on a beach in Aruba, though he didn't mention allegations that he punched a judge.

"I'd like to say that I'm not at all proud of what happened and the way I behaved on the beach that particular day," Ponson told reporters Wednesday in his native Papiamento language before boarding a private jet headed to to everyhody, but especially to the young people of Aruba, who always considered me their role model. I'm very sorry for what took place and I would surely

never let this happen again."
Ponson also apologized to the judge and three other people who were on the beach. He did not take any questions before getting on the let with his agent.



#### Randy Johnson and the New York Yankees reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on a two-year, \$32 million extension.

Ponson was released from jail Tuesday after a week in detention while police investigated allegations that he punched a judge. The 28-year-old right-hander faces charges of public violence and simple aggression.

and simple aggression.
His trial was set for March 3,
when he would be in spring training with the Orioles. It was not
clear whether Ponson would be
required to attend the trial.

#### Tigers acquire catcher Wilson DETROIT — The New York Mets traded catcher Vance Wil-

Mets traded catcher Vance Wilson to the Detroit Tigers on Thursday for minor league infielder Anderson Hernandez.

Milson will back up Ivan Rodriguez in Detroit. In 67 games for the Mets last season, he hit .274 with four homers and 21 RBIs, and threw out 11 of 32 (34 percent) runners who tried to steal.

## Champ Car's Jourdain switching to Busch ride

The Associated Pres

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Champ Car driver Michel Jourdain Jr. signed a deal Thursday with Ford Motorsports to switch to NASCAR and run the full Busch Series schedule this season.

Jourdain plans to drive a Taurus for ppc Racing and will be the first Hispanic to race a full NASCAR schedule.

"Tm very excited about this chance," Jourdain said. "Twe been wanting to come to NASCAR for a couple years now, and (Ford Racing director) Dan Davis worked very hard with me to find the right opportunity where I could have a chance to work and learn with a top team like noc."

The 28-year-old Jourdain spent nine years in top open-wheel competition, and finished 12th in the Champ Car World Series last season in a Ford-powered car for RuSport.

The son of well-known Mexican racer Michel Jourdain Sr., he became the youngest Champ Car driver at age 19 in 1996 and was the former CART series' Most Improved Driver in 1997.

In 152 career Champ Car starts, Jourdain had two wins, 25 top-10s and nine top-three finishes. His best championship finish was third in 2003, when he raced for Team Rahal.

But Jourdain shifted to RuSport last season rather than go with Rahal to the IRL.

#### Sprinter Collins appeals to CAS against eight-year ban

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — American sprinter Michelle Collins is appealing her eight-year doping ban to the highest court in sports.

Collins filed an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport, seeking to overturn the ban imposed by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency as a result of evidence collected in the BALCO steroids scandal.

No hearing date has been set. The CAS said Thursday it normally issues rulings within four months of an appeal.

The American Arbitration Association sided with USADA on Dec. 10, ruling that Collins used various performance-enhancing substances allegedly provided by the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

While Collins, 33, never tested positive for drugs, USADA charged her with doping based on patterns observed in her blood and urine tests as well as evidence from the BALCO investigation.

In addition to the ban, Collins was stripped of her 2003 world and U.S. indoor titles in the 200

#### Federer reaches Qatar semis

DOHA, Qatar — Roger Federer breezed into the semifinals of the \$1 million Qatar Open with a 6-1, 6-2 win over Felciano Lopez on Thursday.

The world's No. 1 player, preparing to defend his Australian Open title, was flawless in extending his winning streak to 19 matches since his loss at the

#### Sports briefs

Olympics in August. Federer won

In the semis, Federer will play Nikolay Davydenko, who rallied from a set down to beat Sebastien Grosiean 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

#### Defending champ V. Williams wins opening match

HONG KONG — Venus Williams struggled to beat Russia's Vera Zvonareva 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 Thursday in the Champions Challenge exhibition tournament.

Williams led 3-0 in the third set before suffering a lapse of concentration against Zvonareva, who reeled off five straight games to lead 5-3. Zvonareva only needed to hold serve to win the match, but Williams regained control and won the match after the Russian doubled faulted.

Williams, whose season last year was cut short by injuries, played with a wrap around her left thigh but said it was just a protective measure.

Williams plays U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in Friday's match that will determine who advances to Saturday's final. Elena Dementieva reached the final when Czech star Nicole Vaidisova withdrew Thursday due to

#### Slovakia upsets U.S. squad in Hopman Cup

PERTH, Australia — Meghann Shaughnessy and James Blake lost singles matches in the United States' loss to Slovakia in a group match Thursday at the Hopman Cup, but the American team remains in contention for a spot in the final against Argentins.

Daniela Hantuchova defeated Shaughnessy 6-4, 6-2 and Dominik Hrbaty beat Blake 7-6 (2), 6-4 to give Slovakia the victory. Blake and Shaughnessy won the mixed doubles, losing the first set in 17 minutes but then rallying to win two tiebreakers.

That win in mixed doubles could turn out to be crucial if the U.S. team ends up tied for first place in its group. The Americans' next round-robin match is set for Friday against injury-weakened Australia.

Argentina advanced to the final Argentina Germany's Tommy Haas withdrew from his singles match against Guillermo Coria on Thursday because of a strained groin. Germany also defaulted in mixed doubles. Argentina reached the Hopman Cup final for the first

#### Kildow regains downhill lead with second-place finish

SANTA CATERINA VALFUR-VA, Italy — American Lindsey Kildow reclaimed the points lead in the World Cup downhill standings by finishing second Thursday to Austrian Michaela Dorfmeister.

It was the fourth top-three finish of the season for Kildow, who won the opening downhill on Dec. 3 in Lake Louise, Alberta. Hilde Gerg, of Germany finished third Thursday, losing the leader's bib to Kildow

# STRIPES CLASSIFIED

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11. Minnesota (11-2) did not play. Next: at

will adminisplicate the control of t

18. IOWā (13-0) did not play. Next. vs. Peili tate, Thursday. 19. DePaul (11-2) did not play. Next: at Mar-

13. Der dan (1.3.2 just nos pray, rec. as mengedista dans State (9.3) lost to lowa State 78-59. Next at Kansas, Saturday.
21. Maryland (10-2) did not play, Next: vs. No. 5 North Carolina, Sunday.
22. UCLA (9.3) did not play, Next: at Washington State, Friday.
23. New Mescio (10-1) did not play, Next: at No. 11 Minnesota, Sunday.
at No. 11 Minnesota, Sunday.

ana, Thursday. 25. Virginia Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Fordham, Thursday.

Wednesday's women's scores

College 78, Georgato

Boston College 78, Georgetown 29 Bowling Green 70, Buffald 84 Bridgeport 61, C.W. Post 51 Catholic 68, Susugehanna 62 College of N.J. 65, William Paterson 55 Eastern 72, Valley Forge Christian 50 Gettysburg 59, Bryn Mawr 31 Hartford 51, Boston U. 50 Hood 75, Hunter 72 Kutztown 68, Alvernia 59 Kutztown 68, Alvernia 59 Kutztown 68, Alvernia 59

Maine 73, Binghamton 56 Marist 55, Lehigh 53 McDaniel 66, Franklin & Marshall 53 Mount St. Vincent 65, St. Joseph's, L.I. 62 New Hampshire 53, Albany, N.Y. 43

Yale 57, Lafayette 43
SOUTH
Alabama A&M 46, Jackson St. 41
Alabama St. 60, Grambling St. 50
Alcorn St. 58, Texas Southern 48
Armstrong Atlantic 72, Georgia College 69
Charleston Southern 62, Savannah St. 47

Chicago St. 69, Centenary 64 Christopher Newport 70, Guilford 65 Clayton St. 58, North Florida 46 Coastal Carolina 79, Coker 41

Codstal Carol, mar 1 (1701d ag Codstal Carolina 7), Coker 41 Columbus SL 83, Kennesaw 6, OT Fla. Gulf Coast 85, Montevalli 59 Furman 63, Wofford 51, Lander 61, Francis Marion 58 Lindsey Wilson 64, Indiana-Southeas Methodist 67, Newport News 59 Miami (Ohio) 68, Marshall 65 Pagin Beach Atlantic 74, Villa Lulle 45 S. Dakota St. 86, Alabama 83 Shaw 99, Lenpic-Physic R

S. Dakota St. 86, Alabama 83 Shaw 99, Lenoir-Rhyne 56 Southern U. 72, Prairie View 42 Tampa 61, Rollins 56 UNC-Greensboro 60, Elon 54 W. Carolina 71, Coll. of Charleston 58 MIDWEST Baldwin-Wallace 73, Mount Union 55 Bethel, Minn. 72, St. Olaf 68 Carleton 72, Concordia, Moor. 67

Carroll, Wis. 60, Beloit 55 Detroit 75, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 67

michigan 94, Akron 58 Michigan 94, Akron 58 Mporia St. 67, Washburn 60

Franklin 75, Hanover 72 Iowa St. 78, Kansas St. 59 John Carroll 60, Capital 5

John Carroll 60, Capitai 2, Luther at Central, ppd. Missouri 67, Oklahoma St. 49

#### **SCOREBOARD**

#### AFN TV & Radio

#### Friday

AFN-Sports, 7 a.m.—NFL: NFL Films Game of the Week II (dld). AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—Golf: Mercedes Championship, 1st round (did).

AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.—College basketball:
Gonzaga at Santa Clara (did).

AFN-Sports, 7:30 p.m.—College basketball:
Arizona at California (did).

Saturday AFN-Sports, 1 a.m.—Golf: Mercedes Cham-pionship, 2nd round. AFN-Atlantic. 2 a.m.—NBA: Philadelphia at Minnesota. AFN-Radio, 2 a.m.-NBA: Philadelphia at linnesota. AFN-Pacific, 4 a.m.—NBA: Miami at Port-AFN-Sports, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Houston at LA. Lakers. AFN-Sports 9 a.m.—NBA: Philadelphia at Minnesota (did). AFN-Sports, 1:30 p.m.—NBA: Houston at .A. Lakers (did). AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: secrola women at LSU. Georgia women at LSU.

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College basketball:
Maryland at North Carolina.

AFN-Atlantic, 7:30 p.m.—NBA: New York at
Cleveland. AFN-Radio, 7:30 p.m.—NBA: Denver at San AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m.—College basketball: ennessee women at Connecticut remessee women at Connecticut.

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball:
Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—College basketball: Illipnis at Purdue. linois at Purdue.

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 10:30
p.m.—NFL: NFC Wildcard Playoffs, St. Louis
at Seattle.

#### Sunday

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. - Golf: Mercedes Cham-ionship, 3rd round. AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 2 a.m.—NFL: AFC Wildcard Playoffs, N.Y. Jets at San Diego.

All times Central European Time; cates delayed broadcast. All listings ject to change. Visit www.myafi more information.

#### College basketball

#### AP Men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday
1. Illinois (15-0) beat Ohio State 84-65.
Next: at Purdue, Saturday.
2. Kansas (10-0) beat Texas A&M 65-60. at No. 8 Kentucky, Sunday. lorth Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 22 Maryland, Saturday. 4. Wake Forest (12-1) did not play. Next: at vs. No. J. American's Studient play. Next at Clemeno, Saturday. Princeton 59-46. Next: vs. 1-10. Studient Studi Iowa (12-2) lost to Michigan 65-63.
 Next: at Ohio State, Saturday.
 Texas (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Memphis, Thursday. 16. Pittsburgh (10-2) lost to Georgetown 67-64. Next: at Rutgers, Saturday. 17. Louisville (11-3) lost to Houston 70-67. Grish Next all Bulleges, Sallwidge, on 76-67.

Next vs. Press Critishan, Sallwidge, Next vs. St. John's, Sallwidge, Next vs. John's Sallwidge, Next vs. St. John's, Sallwidge, Next vs. St. John's, Sallwidge, Next vs. John's Sallwidge, Next vs. John's

#### Wednesday's men's scores

EAST Adelphi 56, St. Thomas Aquinas 50 Bethany, W.Va. 80, Medaille 54 Boston College 75, Connecticut 70 Böstön College 75, Connecticut 70
Brockport 71, St. Lawrence 63
C.W. Post 80, Bridgeport 69
C. Catholic 45, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 45, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 45, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 45, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 46, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 46, Catholic 46, Susquehanna 61, Catholic 46, Catholic on 61 Kingsi, Pada, Man, Waso III Manhattan SB, N Dakota St. 47 Manhattan SB, N Dakota St. 47 Manhattan SB, Penn St. 58 Millersyille SB, Eltzaten Island SB Millersyille SB, Eltzatehthown 72 Mormouth, N.J. 83, Wagner 51 Morntclair St. 75, Rowan 69, OT Mont St. Vincent 90, St. Joseph's, L.I. 80 Notre Dame 68, Seton Hall 68 Notre Dame 68, Seton Hall 68 Oueens, N.Y. 79, Philadelphia 70 Queens, N.Y. 79, Philadelphia 70 Queens, N.Y. 79, Philadelphia 70 RPI 79, Stevens Tech 76

Rhode Island 72, St. Bonaventure 70 Saint Joseph's 53, Fordham 50 Saint Joseph's 53, Fordham 50 Shippensburg 59, Pitt.-Johnstown 57 St. Francis, Pa. 79, Long Island U. 70 Syracuse 79, St. John's 65 Temple 61. Massachusetts 49 Towson 86, Delaware 66 UMBC 74, Stony Brook 67 Vermont 75, Northeastern Villanova 84, West Virginia Yale 60, Fairfield 57

villations Set, West, Vergina 48 yale 60, Fairlies 50UTH
30UTH
Alabama A&M 64, Jackson St. 60
Alabama A&M 64, Jackson St. 60
Alcorn St. 72, Texas Southern 67
Appalachian St. 81, ETSU 79
Charleston Southern 64, N.C. Asheville 63
Charleston Southern 64, N.C. Asheville 63
Chatlanoga 66, The Citade 57
Coastal Carolina 76, Winthrop 60
Coastal Carolina 76, Winthrop 60
Coll of Charleston 68, Eton 78

Coparial Acrollon 21, Mylightono 68 buyles on 18, Timman 75 on 37 buyles of 18, Timman 75 buyles of 18, Timman 75

ampa 68, Rollins 61 ennessee 72, Georgia 65 ransylvania 86, Defiance 76 roy 87, Jacksonville 76 JAB 83, Southern Miss. 75 UNC-Greensboro 61, Wofford 44
Va. Commonwealth 81, George Mason 74
Va. Wesleyan 84, Lynchburg 63
Vanderbild 70, Alabama 56
Virginia 80, W. Kentucky 79, 20T
MIDWEST
Albion 76, Olivet 52
Alma 72, Kalamazoc 51

Albion 76, Olivet 52 Alma 72, Kalamazoo 61 Aquinas 86, Siena Helghts 68 Ball St. 81, Ohlo 80 Beloit 60, Carroll, Wis. 59 Bethel, Minn. 91, St. Olaf 77 Bradley 81, SW Missouri St. 70 70, Adrian 69 Reserve 83, Oberlin 72 Coe at Loras, ppd. Concordia, Moor, 90, Carleton 89, OT Concordia, Módr 99, Carleton 89, OT Creightion 51, Drabe 59, OT Creightion 51, Drabe 59, OT Creightion 51, Drabe 59, OT Concordia, Ill. 53, Concordia, Ill. 50, Doulsque at Correll, 10va, ppd. 50, Drabe 50, Luther at Central, pdd.

Macalester 76, Hamline 57
Mlami (Ohio) 64, N. Illinois 59
Mount Union 74, Baldwin-Wallace 71
Mount Union 74, Baldwin-Wallace 71
Muskingum 117, Marietta 87
NW Missouri St. 58, Missouri Western 54
Northwestern 71, Indiana 52
Pittsburg St. 75, Missouri Southern 66
Saint Louis 57, Tulane 41 Iowa at Wartburg, ppd. as, Minn, 72, St. John's, Minn, 43

St. Inomas, MIIIII. 12, 31 COMM Wisconsin 77, Purdue 68 Wittenberg 76, Kenyon 28 SOUTHWEST Arkansas 69, Mississippi 46 Houston 70, Louisville 67 FAR WEST Air Force 84, Texas-Pan American 51 UC Davis 75, Menio 59

UNLV 92, Fort Lewis 80 Utah 81, Whitworth 60

#### AP Women's Top 25 fared

Wednesay

1. LSU (13-1) lost to No, 14 Rutgers 51-49,
OT. Next: vs. No. 17 Georgia, Saturday,
2. Duke (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25
Virginia Tech, Sunday,
3. Baylor (11-1) beat Texas A&M 64-50.
Next: vs. No. 7 Texas, Saturday. vext: vs. no. / Texas, Saturday.

4. Notre Dame (13-1) beat Syracuse 75-58.
lext: at Villanova, Sunday.

5. North Carolina (11-1) did not play. Next:
s; Winthroo, Thursday. s... with carginis (11-1) did not play. Next: 6. Michigan State (Introduce). 6. Michigan State (Introduce). 7. Texas (8-3) beat Kansas (6-51. Next: at No. 3 Baylor, Saturday. 8. Statiford (11-2) did not play. Next: at Ari-20. Dibo State (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Michigan State, Thursday. 10. Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Connecticul, Saturday.

Author of Central Done St. 49
Nebraska 84, Colorado 62
Notre Diame 73, Syracuse 80
Notre Diame 73, Syracuse 83
Notre Diame 73, Syracuse 83
Notre Diame 73, Syracuse 83
Notre St. Masser McKendree 83
Notre St. Zawer 78, McKendree 83
Notre St. Zawer 78, McKendree 83
Notre St. Zawer 84, McKendree 83
Notre St. Zawer 84, McKendree 83
Notre St. Zawer 84, McKendree 84
Nis-Stacuse 84, McKendree 84
Nis-Stacuse 84, McKendree 87
Nis-Stacuse 87, Notre-Switherwater 72
Nis-Stout 68, Wg. Supperpor 61
Saylor 54, Toxas A&M 90
Saylor 54, Toxas A&M 90 

Slovak Republic at Loras, p

#### Skiing

#### **World Cup**

Women's downhill
SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Results Thursday from a World Cup downhill
on the 2.563-kilometer (1.6-mile) Deborah
Compagnoni course:
1. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 1 minute,
41.66 seconds.

L Index Modern Commenter, Austria, 1 minute, 2. Lindaey, Midow, United States, 142.06.

3. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 142.19.

3. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 142.19.

5. Carole Montillet-Carles, France, 1-24.24.

6. Sylviane Berthod, Switzerland, 142.44.

6. Sylviane Berthod, 142.45.

12. Kirsten Clark, United States, 1:43.36.
Li S. Alexandra Messantzer, Austria, 14. B. Alexandra Messantzer, Austria, 14. B. Alexandra Messantzer, Austria, 15. Li S. Alexandra Messantzer, 15. Li S. Li S.

Carmen Casanova, Switzerland, 34.71.
27. Astrid Vierthaler, Austria, 1:44.76.
28. Martina Ertl, Germany, 1:44.77.
29. Julie Duvillard, France, 1:44.78.
30. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 1:45.00.
Did Not Start
Malacia Turgoon, Canada

Melanie Turgeon, Canada Did Not Finish Stacey Cook, United Stal Gruener, Italy; Resi Stiegler, Cathrine Meisingset, Norway Disqualified ates: Angelika United States: Selina Heregger, Austria. World Cup Standin

Overall (After 13 events) Tanja Poutiainien, Finland, 626 points. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 559. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 539.

3. Anja Paerson, Sweden, 539.
4. Michaela Dorfmelster, Austria, 457.
5. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 396.
6. Lindsey Riddow, United States, 385.
6. Mariles Schild, Austria, 337.
9. Carole Montille-Carles, 249.
10. Martina Ertl, Germany, 247.
Downhill
1. Lindsey Riddow, United States, 301.
1. Lindsey, Riddow, United States, 301.
2. Martina Ertl, Germany, 247.
Downhill
1. Lindsey, Riddow, United States, 301.
2. Martina Ertl, Germany, 247.
Downhill
3. Lindsey, Riddow, United States, 301.
3. Martina Ertl, Germany, 247.
3. Martina Ert oints. 2. Hilde Gerg, Germany, 220. 3. Carole Montillet-Carles, France, 185. 4. Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 182.

 Michaela Dorfffelster, Austria, 16.
 Renate Goetschl, Austria, 175.
 Isolde Kostner, Italy, 101.
 Sylviane Berthod, Switzerland, 98.
 Caroline Lalive, United States, 84. (tie). Brigitte Obermoser, Austria, 84. 10. Janica Kostelic, Croatia, 82.

#### Tennis

ATP Next Generation Hardcourts

Thursday At Memorial Drive Adelaide, Australia Purse: \$419,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Secundary
Secundary
Secundary
Secundary
Jurgen Melzer (8), Austria, def. Amer Delic,
United States, 6-3, 6-3.
Juan Ignacio Chela (4), Argentina, def.
Jean-Rene Lisnard, France, 7-5, 7-5,
Juan Ignacio Chela (4), Argentina, def. Agustin
Calleri, Argentina, 6-1, 6-4,
Taylor Dent (5), United States, def. Julien

Taylor Dent (5), United States, def. Julien Benneteau, France, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles Quarterfinals Nicolas Kiefer, Germany, and Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, def. Gaston Etils and Martin Rodriguez (1), Argentina, 6-4, 6-3. Xavier Mailsse and Olivier Rochus (3), Belgium, def. Rick Leach and Brian MacPhie, United States, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

#### Oatar Open

Thursday At The Khalifa Tennis Centre Doha, Qatar Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Quarterfinals Roger Federer (1), Switzerland, def. Feli-land Lopez (7), Spain, 6-1, 6-2. Nikolay Davydenko (8), Russia, def. Sebas-ien Grosjean (3), France, 2-6, 6-3, 6-2.

MULDE /LINES

#### WTA Gold Coast

Thursday
At Royal Pines Resort
Gold Coast, Australia
Purse: \$170,000 (Tier III)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Silvia Farina Eliä (5), Italy, def. Nadia Petro-

Silvia Fanna Elia (5), Italy, uer. mousa Fesso va (1), Russia, walkover. Samantha Stosur, Australia, def. Magdale-na Maleeva (8), Bulgaria, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. Patty Schnyder (2), Şwitzerland, def. Sesil Patty Scnnyger (2), Switzerianu, uer. Sesii Karatantcheva, Bulgaria, 6-2, 6-3. Tatlana Golovin, France, def. Flavia Pennet-ta, Italy, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-4. **Doubles** 

Doubles Quarterfinals Yan Zi and Zheng Jie (4), China, def. Bry-anne Stewart and Samantha Stosur, Austra-lia, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4. lia, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4.
Maria Elena Camerin and Silvia Farina Elia, Italy, def. Barbara Schett, Austria, and Patty Schnyler (1). Switzerland, 6-4, 6-4.

#### WTA ASB Classic

Thursday At ASB Bank Tennis Centre Auckland, New Zealand Purse: \$140,000 (Tier IV) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hara-Outdoor Singles Quarterfinals Katarina Srebotnik, Slovenia, leads Shahar Peer, Israel, 6-1, 0-1, susp., rain.

#### Deals

#### Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with Ron Gardenhire, manager, on a two-year TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Alex S. Gonzalez on a one-year contract.

National League CINCINNATI REDS—Named Tyler Wilt SCOUL

WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Named Don Buford 1B coach, Dave Huppert 3B coach, Jack
Voigt roving coach, Jose Riy speelal assistant to the general manager, Jose Cardenal
special adviser to the general manager and
Scott Lawrenson assistant athletic trainer.
Can-Amit League
NEW HAVEN COUNTY CUTTERS—Agreed to
terms with 1HP Jordy Alexander.

Northern League
GARY SOUTHSHORE RAILCATS—Named
Greg Tagert manager and director of player
procurement

procurement.

JOLIET JACKHAMMERS—Agreed to terms with 18-0F Gary Burnham and OF-C Dan Underwood, Traded 18 David Gordon and RHP Jeremy Hinderks to Windy City of the Frontier League for future considerations.

eremy Hinderks to Windy City of the Fron-ier League for future considerations. National BASKETBALL CHICAGO BILL SECTION OF THE CONTROL CHICAGO BILL SECTION OF SMITH OF THE CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Activated G Da-uan Wagner from the injured list. Placed F Juke Jackson on the injured list. Placed F DERVER NUGGETS—Waived C Mark Pope nd F Arthur Johnson.

DETROIT PISTONS—Released F Derrick

Coloman, Signed G Anthony Goldwire to a coleman. Signed G Anthony Goldwire to a 0-day contract. LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed G Darrick Martin to a 10-day contract.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS—Activated F Toni
Kukoc and C Daniel Santiago from the in-jured list. Walved G Kendall Gill and G Eddle

NEW JERSEY NETS—Signed F Jerome Moiso to a 10-day contract. Waived F Kaniel Dickns. NEW YORK KNICKS—Placed G-F Anfernee NEW YORK KNICKS—Placed G-F Anternee Hardaway on the injured list. UTAH JAZZ—Activated G Howard Eisley from the injured list. FOOTBALL National Football League ARIZONA CARDINALS—Named Keith

Rowen offensive coordinator. Reassigned tight ends coach Mike Wilson to receivers

oach. CINCINNATI BENGALS—Fired Leslie Fraler, defensive coordinator.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed CB Brandon
Pinderhughes to the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS—Fired Dennis Erick-SAN FRANCISCO 49EBS – Fired Dennis Frick-son, coach, and Terry Donahue, general man-ager. Signed & Thomas Herrion, C Norm Kat-Doug Zeigher to one-year contracts. Doug Zeigher to one-year contracts. WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed LIB Mau-rice Jones and WR Nathan Black. COLLEGE BIG EAST CONFERENCE—Announced the addition of Loyala College as an associate member in women's lacrosse, effective in

nember in women's lacrosse, effective in the 2005-06 season. AIR FORCE ACADEMY—Named Brian Knorr ctemsive coordinator.

CLEMSON—Announced CB Justin Miller
will make himself available for the NFL draft

DARTMOUTH—Named Buddy Teevens foot

eall coach.

FLORIDA—Announced sophomore LB Chan-ning Crowder will make himself available for INTERIOR OF THE PROPERTY OF T

er.
LOUISVILLE—Announced RB Eric Shelton
vill make himself available for the NFL draft.
MARYLAND—Announced DE Shawne Merrinan, will make himself available for the NFL

ratt.
NORTH CAROLINA STATE—Announced the signation of Noel Mazzone, offensive coor-

dinator, to take the same position at Missis sippi.

OHIO STATE—Announced the retirement of Andy Geiger, athletic director, effective

June 30.
PITTSBURGH—Named Paul Dunn and Aubrey Hill offensive assistants.
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY—Named Terrence Graves defensive coordinator.

VANDERBILT—Released F Jenn Hall from the women's basketball team.

WEST VIRGINIA—Announced CB Adam Jones will make himself available for the

#### TANK McNamara

UNDERSTANDABLY MISTRUSTFUL OF THE WASHINGTON, DC., POLITICIANS WIDHAD TOOL THE EXEMPOS THEY WERE SAFE QUEST, WAREN COME THE WALCH LEAGUE OWNERS ARE QUIETY MAKING CONTINGENCY PLANS NO CHER CHES, SHOULD THE WIGHNERS NATIONALS BECOME HOMISLESS AGAIN. NATIONALS BECOME HOMISLESS AGAIN. HOME PLATE WOULD GO HERE SEE, HOME PLATE WOULD GO HEKE, AND MAYBE THOSE ABUTMENTS COULD BE MOVED TO THE EAST TO ALLOW FOR AT LEAST A LITTLE RIGHT FIELD. WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE ALREADY LIVING HERE? WHAT THE HECK. GIVE 'EM SEASON TICKETS.

## In a season of futility, 49ers clean house

#### Coach Erickson, GM Donohue dismissed after team's poorest showing since 1979

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - Owner John York eventually came to the same conclusion reached much earlier by most of the San Francisco 49ers' fans: Terry Donahue was the wrong man to rebuild this once-proud franchise, and Dennis Erickson was the wrong man to coach it

York fired his coach and dismissed his general manager on Wednesday, cleaning house just three days after the 49ers finished with the NFL's worst record. The owner made a rare public appearance to announce the dramatic changes to his team, which went 2-14 to match the worst season in San Francisco history.

The new coach and general manager will get to use the first overall pick in the uncoming draft but the 49ers' reputation has declined steadily since York and his wife took over the team in 1999. York believes he can fix things - and boost the 49ers' attempts to raise support for a new stadium - by hiring new people who can quickly transform his club

It's an expensive solution, however: Erickson will get all of the \$7.5 million still owed to him in the three remaining years of his contract, while Donahue reached a financial settlement just four months after getting a four-year extension reportedly worth \$5 million.

"Sometimes, even when everyone works very hard, the formula for winning just isn't there," York said. "We're going to use the extreme disappointment that we all have felt as our turning point.

"We know how much passion 49ers fans have, and we understand that this is unaccentable to our fans. We need our fans to know that it is equally unacceptable to us. We take our responsibility as owners seri-

Erickson went 9-23 in two seasons as Steve Mariucci's successor, never reaching the postseason. He won two national championships at the University of Miami. but is 40-56 in six seasons as an NFL head coach in San Francisco and Seattle

Erickson got the news in a meeting with York on Wednesday morning. He has little reason to be bitter: He's leaving one of the NFL's biggest messes, and he got paid roughly \$1.39 million for every victory with the 49ers

"There really wasn't much more than that, other than I thanked him for the opportunity." Erickson said. "They wanted to go their direction, I've got to go my direc-tion. It's a divorce. It's final now."

The 49ers won five championships from 1981-94, but on York's watch, they've had just two winning seasons and won just one playoff game. Erickson is the second coach fired by York in slightly less than two years, following his abrupt dismissal of



piled 40-56 record, including 9-23 in two seasons with the San Francisco 49ers.

Mariucci just days after a second-round playoff loss at Tampa Bay.

York said he plans to hire a winning head coach with NFL experience before replacing his general manager though he doesn't expect one man to hold both jobs. He has a list of fewer than 10 candidates, including a few coaches still working for playoff teams. Under a recent rule change, assistant coaches with teams still in the playoffs are allowed to interview for other jobs.

York didn't deny an interest in speaking to former Patriots and Jets coach Pete Carroll, who wrapped up his second straight national championship with Southern California on Tuesday night.

"I think we all watched the game last night. That was a tremendous game," York

Donahue, the longtime UCLA coach, was the hand-picked successor to Bill Walsh, who led the team's rebuilding from a similar salary cap-induced funk five years ago. Since taking over from Walsh in 2001, Donahue has been criticized for me-diocre drafts and unorthodox strategies, from his difficult salary cap relief plan to his reliance on unusual player evaluation methods

"I am very disappointed that I do not have the opportunity to remain with the 49ers," Donahue said in a statement. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind with the improvement in the salary cap situation, the return of a lot of injured players along with a good draft, that we would have experienced a great deal of success in the future

While Erickson took much of the heat for the 49ers' record, many of their shortcomings were due to a stripped-down roster assembled by Donahue, who waived several veterans and pared the payroll last summer in an effort to rid the 49ers of the "dead money" - being paid to players no longer with the team — on their salary cap.

San Francisco had nearly \$29 million in dead money this season despite the departures of receiver Terrell Owens, quarterback Jeff Garcia, running back Garrison Hearst and standout offensive linemen Derrick Deese and Ron Stone, among others.

The 49ers knew they would struggle this season with that young, inexpensive roster, but few expected them to match the 2-14 marks set by the club in 1978 and 1979

"Nobody thought we'd be sitting here at 2-14," York said. "Absolutely nobody."

### Brees chosen Comeback Player of '04

NEW YORK - Drew Brees went from forgotten man to one of

the NFL's best quarterbacks this NFL

season. He was rewarded for his turnaround with The Associated Press 2004

Comeback Player of the Year award

The San Diego Chargers so doubted Brees after his weak 2003 performance that they draft ed Eli Manning with the top pick last April, then traded him to the New York Giants for the rights to another highly rated quarterback prospect, Phillip Rivers. Had Rivers not held out for half the preseason, Brees might not have gotten on the field in '04.

The first choice in the second round of the 2001 draft completed 262 of 400 passes for 3,159 vards, 27 touchdowns and only seven interceptions.

His 104.8 rating was a 37.3 point improvement over the previ-

Brees got 181/2 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, easily heating Carolina linebacker Mark Fields, who received 10 votes. Fields was sidelined last season with Hodgkin's disea

#### Savage reportedly set to be Browns GM

CLEVELAND - Phil Savage accepted an offer to be general manager of the Cleveland Browns, leaving Baltimore for a

struggling AFC North rival, a Browns official told The Associated Press on Wednesday

Considered one of the NFL's talent evaluators, the 39-year-old Savage is returning to the Browns, who gave him his start in the NFL in 1991 as a defensive assistant under coordinator Nick Saban.

With Baltimore, Savage's keen eye for quality players helped the Ravens draft nine Pro Bowlers, in-cluding Ray Lewis, Jonathan Ogden, Jamal Lewis, Peter Boulware and Ed Reed, in eight years.

Owner Randy Lerner wants a traditionally structured front office, where the GM handles most personnel matters, leaving the coach with on-field respon-

### **Nemesis:** Marty has a track record of short playoff runs

NEMESIS. FROM BACK PAGE

Byner at the Denver 2 with 1:05 left. Denver won, 38-33.

Schottenheimer that receiver Webster Slaughter was supposed to run a route into one corner of the end zone. "But he was a young player and

he was interested in seeing what happened on the play so he took one step and he stopped," Schottenheimer said, "Well, when the defender saw him stop, he looked back and saw the runner come and he took off. He never would have been in the play if they had just run up in the corner of the end zone. Byner never saw him coming."

1995 Schottenheimer's Chiefs had the NFL's best record and were shocked 10-7 at home by the wild-card Indianapolis Colts. The Chiefs committed an uncharacteristic four turnovers and Lin Elliott missed three field goals

The same Colts, by the way, upset the Chargers 35-20 on Dec. 31, 1995, San Diego's most recent playoff game. Schottenheimer's last playoff

game was after the 1997 season. and again Elway ended his season, 14-10 in Kansas City.

Linebacker Donnie Edwards, now in his third year with the Chargers, remembers the Chiefs against wild-card team after again going 13.3

"All of a sudden we lost to the

everyone's sitting there stunned like, 'Season's over, what do we do now?"

Edwards said.



ably overlooked the Broncos, who went on to win the Super Bowl. That was also the game in which Schottenheimer went back to quarterback Elvis Grbac even

in relief while Grbac was injured. It was Schottenheimer's fourth straight playoff loss. Schottenheimer says he never wonders why he's had such bad luck, "because then you have to go and look at the ones that went your way. You know they're sin-

though Rich Gannon played well

went six quarters against the Jets to win in that year of Drive." Edwards said Schottenheimer has eased up on the Chargers in practice, which could be a key Sat-

gle-elimination going in. Hell, we

urday night. "I know in the past it wasn't like that at all," Edwards said. 'We were in pads and we were banging. In that respect, it's totally changed. That's huge right there. He's taken them off us so we can be ready, set to go and fast on Saturday.

And maybe change their coach's luck.



## Saturday a wild beginning to NFL playoffs

BY RICK GOSSELIN
The Dallas Morning News

he NFL playoffs begin this weekend with the wild-card round, which pits four division winners against the four non-division-winning "wild cards." The teams with the four best records draw byes this round, giving them an extra week of rest.



Only twice in the last six years has a team that has played on the opening week-

end of the postseason advanced to the Super Bowl — Tennessee in 1999 and Baltimore in 2000. Both were wild cards, and the Ravens went on to win the championship.

went on to win the championship.
Here are the why's and why
not's of the four teams playing Saturday on wild-card weekend:

#### St. Louis Rams (8-8) at Seattle Seahawks (9-7)

RAMS: WHY THEY CAN WIN

Officiating emphasis. NFL supervisor of officials Mike Pereira
says the crackdown on illegal contact will continue in January and
games will be called in the postseason the same way they were
called in the regular season.

That's great news for the passing teams. Few teams are as heavily reliant on the pass to win games as the Rams, who finished fifth in the NFL in passing, Quarterback Marc Bulger had two 400-yard games and passed for 3,964 yards despite missing two games with injuries. Any time the ball is in the air the Rams have a chance.

RAMS: WHY THEY WON'T Hoad we wild-card teams must play on the road. The Rams are a wild-card team that can't win on the road. The Rams went hoe? at the Edward Jones Dome this season and 2-6 away from it. The Dolphins beat the Rams in Miami to snap and -0-6 start. The play the start of the road of of t



New York Jets defensive end Shaun Ellis (92), celebrates Jonathan Vilma's 38-yard interception return for a touchdown against the St. Louis Rams in St. Louis on Sunday. Ellis, who had 11 sacks this season, will be leading the Jets' defensive charge against the San Diego Chargers on Saturday.

the Rams wear their white road jerseys and they become football pacifists.

SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY
CAN WIN — Opportunism. The
Seahawks are soft on defense.
They were the only division champion that allowed more points
(373) than it scored (371), and
only six NFL defenses allowed
more yards than the Seahawks.
forcing turnovers. The Seahawks
finished third in the NFL in interceptions (23) and sixth in takeaways (35).

Turnovers create good field position for your offense. Thirteen Seattle defenders came up with takeaways on interceptions or fumbles.

Cornerback Ken Lucas intercented six passes and recovered

two fumbles

SEAHAWKS: WHY THEY WON'T - No momentum. The Seahawks looked like a Super Bowl contender in September when they rolled to 3-0. But Seattle blew a 17-point fourth quarter lead at home against St. Louis in Week 4, losing 33-27 in overtime, and hasn't been the same team since. The Seahawks staggered down the stretch with a 6-6 record, including a blowout home loss to Buffalo and an embarrassing road loss at Arizona. Seattle no longer looks like a Super Bowl contender. You want to be playing your best football of the season in December, not September. New York Jets (10-6)

#### at San Diego Chargers (12-4) JETS: WHY THEY CAN WIN

Defensive bookends. Ends
John Abraham and Shaun Ellis
anchor a stout run defense and
frantic pass rush. Ellis was a Pro
Bowler in 2003 and Abraham in

Ellis had 11 sacks this season and Abraham 9½. They also combined for 105 tackles to muscle the Jets into the top five in the NFL in run defense. They are the type of size/speed ends Bill Parcells would love as bookends in bis defense. In fact Parcells selected both in the first round of his final draft with the Jets in 2000. They control the edges of the defense.

Abraham, who has missed the last month with a sprained lateral collateral ligament in his right knee, is listed as probable on the

injury report.

JETS: WHY THEY WON'T —
Offensive imbalance. The Jets
rank third in the NFL in rushing
but 22nd in passing.

They generated fewer than 200 yards passing in 10 games and failed to throw a touchdown pass in five of them. Curtis Martin data terrific season, contending for a rushing title despite running smack into eight-man fronts. He'll probably see nine-man fronts in the postseason as defenses dare soft-armed Chad Pemington to throw. The Jets managed two individual 100-yard receiving games. The Colts had an NFL-high 14.

CHARGERS: WHY THEY CAN WIN — Coaching, That's right, coaching. Marty Schottenheimer has been much-maligned because he has never taken a team to the Super Bowl in his 19 seasons as an NFL head coach What can't be disregarded is the fact he ranks eighth in career victories (177) and has suffered only two losing seasons. He engineered a 10-victory improvement at San Diego from 2003 to 2004. He's reached three conference title games. If he reaches a fourth, don't bet against him. La-Dainian Tomlinson provides the best version yet of Martyball.

CHARGERS: WHY THEY
WON'T — Travel. If the Chargers win their first-round game in sunny Southern California, they probably will have to travel to the Eastern time zone on three consecutive weekends. That would be a boon for their frequent flyer account — 2,106 miles to Pitts burgh (AFC semifinals), 2,585 miles to Boston (AFC finals) and then 2,088 miles to Jacksonville (Super Bowl). But three cross-country flights in a span of three weeks takes a toll on the body. San Diego played its only Super Bowl in Miami and was smoked by the 49ers, 49-26.

### Oddsmakers, matchups favor Seahawks, Chargers, Colts, Pack

BY DAVE GOLDBERG

The Associated Press

The NFL playoffs are usually easier to handicap than the regular season for a simple reason: The better teams are at home.

So the oddsmakers automatically give the three points for home-field advantage, plus a few more for being better. That's the case as the playoffs start this weekend.

The closest line is in Seattle, where the Seahawks are favored by four over the Rams, even though St. Louis won both meetings between them in the NFC West, easily the league's worst division.

That's one of two division matchups this weekend. The other is in Green Bay, where the

#### NFL picks

Packers and Vikings play for the third time this season. In fact, all four games are rematches, although Broncos-Colts is barely that — Indianapolis played scrubs in Denver last week.

The picks:

St. Louis (plus 4) at Seattle: The Seahawks' problems this year started in their fourth game, when they were unbeaten and led the Rams by 17 points at home with just more than 6 minutes to go. They lost 33-27 in overtima

It shouldn't happen again, although Seattle is in psychological disarray.

Shaun Alexander "apologized"

for complaining about not getting the ball for the Seahawks' final touchdown against Atlanta last week and losing the rushing title by 1 yard to the Jets' Curtis Martin. But there was an edge to the apology.

Nonetheless, St. Louis was 2-6 on the road this season, Seattle is more talented anyway and ... SEA-HAWKS, 35-26.

New York Jets (plus 6) at San Diego: Another rematch: New York won 34-28 in Week 2, when the Chargers didn't know they were good

Since then, San Diego has gotten better and the Jets have gotten worse, in part because Chad Pennington is playing with a sore rotator cuff, something his many critics in New York don't seem to have considered in taking shots at Pennington doesn't have the strongest arm when healthy. Now he can hardly throw deep at all, allowing defenses to stack for Curtis Martin. San Diego will do that and ... CHARGERS, 24-16.

Denver (plus 10) at Indianapolis: The Broncos made the playoffs by beating the visiting Colts, who used Jim Sorgi at quarter-

These are the Colts with Peyton Manning, who beat Denver 41-10 in last season's first round at the RCA Dome.

That caused Mike Shanahan to revamp his defense, bringing in Champ Bailey and John Lynch to help the secondary. They have, but they're not going to shut down Manning, Edgerrin James and the Marvin Harrison-Reggie Wayne-Brandon Stokley troika... COLTS, 31-17. Bay: The Packers won both meetings this season 34-31, the latest in Minneapolis on Dec. 24. And their secondary is certainly vulnerable to Daunte Culpepper, Randy Moss and Nate Burleson, although Moss provoked some discord by walking off the field with 2 seconds left in the Vikings' loss in Washington last week.

ota (plus 6) at Green

Nonetheless, the most telling numbers are these: The Packers won nine of their final 11 games; the Vikings lost seven of their last 10, the second straight season they've done that.

The Lambeau magic isn't what it used to be, but ... PACKERS, 34-31.

Last week: 7-8-1 (spread), 9-7 (straight up).

Regular season: 111-123-6

Regular season: 111-123 (spread), 156-84 (straight up).

## **Weary Suns end Rockets' winning streak**

BY JOEL ANDERSON The Associated Press

HOUSTON - A year removed from one of the worst seasons in franchise history the Phoenix Suns are now winning even when they're road-weary and their best player has an off-night.

Shawn Marion scored 22 points, Quentin Richardson added 18 points and 14 rebounds and the Suns effortlessly bounced back from a draining victory in Minnesota the night before with a 108-98 win over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday night

"We weren't sharp. Maybe it was fatigue," said point guard Steve Nash, an offseason acquisition from Dallas who is perhaps the biggest reason the Suns are 16 games ahead of last year's pace.

"But we were good enough. That's what we've done a lot this year. We make enough shots and do just enough to give ourselves a chance."

Amare Stoudemire finally cooled off after a torrid two-game stretch in which he scored a total of 84 points, finishing with just 19 points on 5-for-15 shooting and nine rehounds

But his Suns teammates picked up the slack and rolled to a relatively easy victory despite coming off an emotional 122-115 win at Minnesota the night before. Houston, meanwhile, had been off for two days since a 99-80 win over Utah and hasn't played a road game since Dec. 29.

"We were coming off back-to-backs and they've been here waiting for us for a cou ple of days," Marion said. "But we came out and put them back on their heels."



Phoenix Suns guard Joe Johnson (2) and Houston Rockets center Dikembe Mutombo wrestle for the ball in the second quarter on Wednesday in Houston.

Nash had 12 points and 13 assists, Joe Johnson had 17 points and 12 rebounds and Casev Jacobsen tied a season high with 14 points for the Suns, who won their fourth straight to improve their NBA-best record to 28-4.

Tracy McGrady led Houston with 24 points, David Wesley added 15 and Yao Ming finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. The loss snapped Houston's season-high three-game winning streak

In a matchup between the NBA's youngest team (Phoenix) and its oldest (Hous ton), the Suns jumped out to a big early

lead, Houston gamely fought back and the Suns were ultimately able to pull away. Phoenix showed few signs of fatigue from their grueling victory over the Timberwolves on Tuesday night and a plane trip that didn't get them into Houston until the wee hours of the morning.

Regardless, the Suns ran Houston ragged from the tipoff.

"It's tough to get back up emotionally like we did," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni "We expended a lot of energy (in Minnesota), but somehow, they found some more tonight.'

Johnson scored 11 points in the first four minutes, including three threes, to help the Suns race out to an early 22-8 lead. The Rockets never really recovered.

Bob Sura hit a jumper to move the Rock-ets within 74-71 late in the third quarter, but Jacobsen quickly responded with another three and Houston never got any closer the rest of the way.

Phoenix put on quite a shooting display against one of the league's best defensive teams, going 15-for-34 from behind the arc. They finished one three-pointer shy of their season best of 16 against the Lakers on Dec. 8 and tied their season high of 34 attempts.

mpts.
"There is no answer to our fast-paced of-nse when we are making shots," Marion fense when we are making shots, said.

At one point in the second half, McGrady missed 11 straight shots. He went only 8-for-25 from the field, but had nine rebounds and five assists.

'I've never seen a team that keeps you back on your heels when you make a shot," McGrady said. "We're not used to that. Those guys get the ball out and they're gone. It was crazy tonight. You're just glad that every NBA team isn't like that."

#### NBA scoreboard

#### **Eastern Conference** Atlantic Division

vision 19 12 .613 17 13 .567 16 13 .552 11 18 .379 10 19 .345

Western Conference Southwest Division
0 26 7 .788
0 27 10 .677
16 16 .500
16 17 .485
18 2 28 .067 2 28 .00. est Division 23 7 .767 16 14 .533 14 16 .467 14 17 .452 11 22 .333 Spattle Phoenix

Wednesday's game Cleveland 101, Atlanta 85 Boston 84, Golden State 83 Toronto 96, Sacramento 93 Orlando 105, Seattle 87 Charlotte 102, Minnesota 84 Miami 102, New York 94 Milwaukee 97, New Jersey 74 Chicago 95, New Orleans 89

Milwaukee at Toront Charlotte at Orlando

Charlotte at Orlando Detroit at Boston Sacramento at Atlanta Golden State at New Jersey Golden State at New Jerse New Orleans at Memphis Philadelphia at Minnesota Utah at Chicago Miami at Portland Houston at LA, Lakers

Saturday's games New York at Cleveland Denver at San Antonio Phoenix at L.A. Clippers Minnesota at Washington New Jersey at Orlando Sacramento at New Orleans

#### Wednesday

Cavaliers 101, Hawks 85 ATLANTA — Walker 9-20 4-8 26, Harrington 5-12 6-8 16, Collier 3-5 0-0 6, Lue 5-12 0-0 10, L5mith 5-7 1-1 11, Childress 2-11 0-2 4, Drobn-lak 3-8 4-4 10, Ivey 0-1 2-2 2, Delk 0-2 0-0 0, Willis 0-0 0-0 0, Dlaw 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 32-78

#### Celtics 84, Warriors 83

GOLDEN STATE — Murphy 6-16-3-615. Dun-leavy 5-9-3-4. R. Robinson 6-17-14-18. Class-16-4-10. Foyle 3-60-6. Follow 2-7-2-60-4. 6-4-10. Foyle 3-60-6. Follow 2-7-2-60-4. Cabarkaga 6-1-0-60. Totals 3-7-8-11-20-83. 1-3-8. Blount 4-9-0-8. Payton 6-7-0-0-13. Pierce 7-20-5-7-19. Jefferson 5-7-0-2-10. Pierce 7-20-5-7-19. Jefferson 5-7-0-2-10. 3-7-0-7. Allen 1-4-0-2. Totals 2-80-9-16-84. Golden State 3-2-0-16-8. Sept. 9-16-84. Three-point Goals—Golden State 4-4-9. 

#### Raptors 96, Kings 93

\*\*ARATORS\*\* 95., MIRS \*\*\* 35.
\*\*\*ACRAMENTO\*\* - Stopkonde\*\* 2.1 5.7 18.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 18.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 12.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 12.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 12.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 12.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.7 12.
\*\*Christin - 2.6 4.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 19.8, Bibby 1.2.0, Feb. 1.2.0, Bibby 1.2.0

to 64 (Miller 19), Toronto 61 (Araujo 14). Assists—Sacramento 21 (Web-ber 6), Toronto 22 (Alston 10). Total fouls—Sacramento 21, Toronto 24. Techni-cals—Bibby. A—18,288 (19,800).

#### Magic 105, SuperSonics 87

4-9, Allen 3-8, Ridnour 1-4, Radmanovic 1-7, Daniels 0-1, Murray 0-2), Orlando 6-12 (Fran-cis 3-3, Turkoglu 2-5, Mobley 1-3, Nelson 0-1). Foulded out—None. Rebounds—Seattle 39 (Lewis 11), Orlando 59 (Battle 12), As-sists—Seattle 12 (Ridnour 5), Orlando 21 (Hill, Francis 6), Total fouls—Seattle 20, Or-lando 18, A—13,035 (17,246).

#### Bobcats 102, T-wolves 84

37-88 42-90 104. 24 16 25 19 - 58 Charlotte Ch

#### Bulls 95, Hornets 89

Buills 99, Morrets 39

DUILGAO - Deng 5-14 6-14, A Dayls 34

DUILGAO - Deng 5-14 6-13, A Dayls 34

Dullon 1-2 15-21, Geroon 4-5-31, Chandrad 5-6

Dullon 1-2 15-21, Geroon 4-5-31, Chandrad 5-6

2-2-46, Platkowski 3-17-28, Nacchina 15-6

2-2-46, Platkowski 3-17-28, Nacchina 15-6

Tall 2-2-46, Platkowski 3-17-28, Nacchina 15-6

Tall 2-2, Tall 2-2,

rington 0-1, Dickau 0-1), Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 59 (Curry, A.Davis 9), New Orleans 49 (Rogers S), Assists—Chicago 16 (Duhno S), New Orleans 19 (B.Davis S), Total Iouls—Chicago Delensive Three Se-ond, Flagrant fouls—B.Davis. A—13,399 (17,200).

#### Mavericks 118, Lakers 104

L.A. LAKERS — Butler 3-8 1-1 8, Odom 5-12 4-6 14, Mihm 7-13 3-4 17, Bryant 12-30 4-6 32, Atkins 3-12 6-6 14, Grant 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 3-8 3-4 10, Brown 0-2-0-0, Medvedenko 0-2-0-0 0, 3-410. Browin 6-26-60. Medicus of the John 5-26-60. Cook 3-46-9. Totals 36-91.21-27 104. DALLAS — Howard 6-13 3-4 15, Nowitzki 8-22 9-11 25, Dampler 5-7 3-5 13, Finley 8-20-91. See 10-20. Howard 6-10-20. Ho

La 46.5 26.20 26.2

#### Suns 108, Rockets 98

Suns 10.8, Rockets 98
PROBENT - Enhancing 7-20-0-10, Marion
F-11-6.6 T Sendenting 1-20-0-10, Marion
F-11-6.6 T Sendenting 1-20-11, Veskuhl 9-0-0-0
1-10.0 T Sendenting 1-20-11, Veskuhl 9-0-0-0
10.0 T Sendenting 1-20-0-0
10.0 T Sendenting 1-20-0
10.0 T Sendent

#### 76ers 106, Jazz 99

1-28 99. Philadelphia 39 20 18 29—106 Illah 21 27 25 26—90 Utah 21 27 25 26 99 Three-Point Goals—Philadelphia 5-15 (Korver 2-4, Iverson 2-8, Salmons 1-2, Iguodala 0-1), Utah 2-10 (Lopez 1-2, Giricek 1-4, Boozer 0-1, Eisley 0-1, Snyder 0-2), Fouled out-None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 41 (Iver-None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 41 (Iver-None. son, Dalembert, Jackson 6), Utah 48 (Boozer 10). Assists—Philadelphia 20 (Iverson 9), Utah 23 (Boozer 6). Total fouls—Philadelphia 21, Utah 29. A—18,409 (19,911).

Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 98

PORTLAND — Miles 3-8 3-5 9, Randolph 1-13 2-2 10, Ratliff 4-6 1-1 9, Anderson 6-11 1-1 4-13 2-7 10, Ratilff 4-6 1-19, Anderson 6-11 1-1 15, Van Exel 5-14 0- 0-13, Patterson 3-6 5-8 11, Stoudamire 6-10 0-0 14, Przybilla 3-4 1-3 7, Outlaw 2-3 1-25, Felfair 2-6-0 15, Totals 3-88 1-1 1-2 1, Peterson 11-24 0-0 22 Brand 9-37 0-11 18, Kaman 5-11 3-4 13, Mag-gette 6-12 13-13 31, Brunson 1-52-2 4, Rebra-ca 2-50-0 4, Ross 4-70-0 8, Cahairers 0-10-0 0, Monore 12-00-2, Martin 6-10-00.

Totals 4.85 18:00 102.

Portland

1. Clippers

1. Clipper

#### Heat 102, Knicks 94

NEW YORK — K.Thomas 11-15 1-1 23, T.Tho-mas 3-9 2-2 9, Mohammed 3-7 5-8 11, Mar-bury 11-20 6-9 28, Houston 4-9 0-0 10, Baker

mas 24.5.2.5 Mohammed 7.5.8.11. Mon. 1.5.1. Mon. 1.5.1

#### Bucks 97, Nets 74

NEW JERSEY — Collins 2-3 0-1 4, Jeffersor i-19 4-4 16, Krstic 0-3 0-0 0, Carter 6-14 3-4 15 Kidd 5-14 0-0 12, Ja.Smith 7-13 5-5 19, Buford 2-11 0-0 4, Best 0-3 2-2 2, Moiso 0-1 0-0 0, Vaughn 1-2 0-0 2.

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# Mavericks continue improving with near-perfect Terry starting

The Associated Pres.

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks are finding out that maybe Jason Terry was the right point guard to replace Steve Nash after all

Terry continued his roll since finally moving into the starting lineup, scoring a season-high 28 points and doing a great job running the offense in a 118-104 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.



getting in the lane and hitting guys, then they started to find me and I started attackid. "That's the kind

ing," Terry said. "That's the kind of rhythm we're looking for." Terry's numbers were gaudy: 9-for-10 on field goals, perfect on

9-for-10 on field goals, perfect on five three-pointers and 5-for-6 on free throws. He also had six rebounds, five assists and just one turnover. The stunning part was a 12-minute stretch when he either scored or assisted on 27 of 29 points, taking Dallas from five down to up by 14.

But perhaps the most important stat is the Mavericks improving to 6-1 since he's become the starter, with their scoring up to 110 points per game. They were 15-9 and averaging 99 points when Terry was backing up rookie Devin Harris.

The Lakers gave up their second-most points in regulation this season, but coach Rudy Tomjanovich called it "the worst defense we've played." It also came the night after a 100-83 loss to San Antonio that wasn't even that close.

"We've got to put a tourniquet on it and win some games," Tomjanovich said, adding that missed shots on offense tend to leave players sagging on defense.

Kobe Bryant scored 32 points, but was shut out until early in the second quarter, when Los Angeles already trailed by 15. He also was angry about the defense.

"We're not getting it done," he said. "Tonight, they got whatever they wanted. Teams have been getting in the paint and getting easy shots on us. Sometimes it takes a couple of kicks in the butt

to get you going."

Dallas led by as many as 17 and by at least 10 throughout the second half. The rout was a nice way for the Mavericks to cap their first three-game winning streak over the Lakers since 1986-87.

Heat 102, Knicks 94: At Miami, Shaquille O'Neal had 33 points and 18 rebounds, Dwyane Wade scored 21 and the Heat limited the Knicks to two field goals in a seven-minute stretch of the first half.

O'Neal made 14 of 21 shots, eclipsing the 30-point and 18-re-bound marks for the third time this season. Wade added a game-high nine assists.

Miami led most of the way, held a 42-32 rebounding margin and showed no ill effects from Monday's home loss to Seattle which snapped a fran-



Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry, center, flies to the hoop around Los Angeles Lakers' Tierre Brown (5), Slava Medvedenko (14) and Brian Cook, background right.

chise-record 14-game winning

Magic 105, SuperSonics 87: Steve Francis scored 27 of his 35 points after halftime, and host Orlando snapped a four-game losing streak.

Grant Hill scored 21 points, shooting 9-for-11, with seven rebounds and six assists. Cuttino Mobley added 13 points while Hedo Turkoglu scored 12 off the bench.

Cavaliers 101, Hawks 85: At Cleveland, Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 20 of his 28 points after halftime and Cleveland shut down Atlanta early in the fourth quarter.

LeBron James added 20 points in in second game wearing a protective mask over a broken left cheek for the Cavs, who clamped down on the Hawks, blanking them 12-0 in the first 8:16 of the final quarter.

Atlanta missed its first 12 shots

— and both free-throw attempts

— in the fourth before Tyronn

Lue dropped a 15-foot jumper to
bring the Hawks to 90-79.

Celtics 84, Warriors 83: Paul Pierce had 19 points, eight rebounds and eight assists to make up for a poor outside shooting night and Al Jefferson had his first career double-double with 10 points and 11 rebounds

Gary Payton added 13 points for the Celtics, who won their fifth straight home game.

**Bobcats 102, Timberwolves 84:** Gerald Wallace had 21 points and 12 rebounds, and an in-your-face block on Wally Szczerbiak that he converted into a fast-break layup.

Wallace had one of his best games as a Bobcat, turning it up during a 16-1 run that helped Charlotte break its six-game losing streak at home. He started the run with a free throw, and he hustled upcourt after blocking Szczer

biak's shot for a layup that drew a foul. His free throw made it 87-81 with 2:26 to play.

Wallace then stole the ball from Eddie Griffin, and Brevin Knijgen Fired it back to him for a rim-rattling dunk. Melvin Ely added consecutive baskets for the Bobcats, who spread their lead to 93-81 as the Timberwolves went over five minutes without a field goal.

Raptors 96, Kings 93: Chris Bosh had 23 points and 13 rebounds for the first back-to-back 20-point games of his career, and Jalen Rose had 20 points off the bench for the Raptors, who have won five straight at home.

Mike Bibby had a season-high 32 points for the Kings, who had won of eight of their previous nine road games. Sacramento played in New York the night before.

Bucks 97, Nets 74: At Milwaukee, Joe Smith and Mike James each scored 17 points and Desmond Mason added 16 for the Bucks, who had lost three straight and eight of 11.

Jabari Smith had career highs with 19 points and six assists in a season-high 36 minutes off the bench for the Nets, who came in scoring 86.5 points a game — 29th in the NBA.

**Bulls 95, Hornets 89:** Kirk Hinrich scored 19 points and Eddy Curry added 17, helping resurgent Chicago hand host New Orleans its ninth straight loss.

The Hornets, led by Baron Davis' 21 points, erased a 14-point deficit in the second half, but the Bulls clamped down defensively, forcing New Orleans to attempt a barrage of three-pointers. most of which missed.

**76ers 106, Jazz 99:** Allen Iverson scored 10 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, and Philadelphia won in Utah for the first time in four years.

Kenny Thomas added 30 points, scoring 18 during the Sixers' 39-point opening quarter, and Marc Jackson added 14 points, making all 10 of his free

Philadelphia improved to 5-2 on an eight-game road trip, which ends Friday at Minnesota. The Sixers hadn't won at Utah since Dec. 26, 2000 and had dropped 14 of 15 on the road against the Jazz.

Clippers 102, Trail Blazers 98: At Los Angeles, Corey Maggette scored 15 of his 31 points in the final quarter and hit a key jumper with 20 seconds remaining.

Maggette's 18-footer from the left side off a pass from Rick Brunson gave the Clippers a four-point lead. Portland's Damon Stoudamire then missed a jumper, and Zach Randolph missed on a putback attempt.

The Clippers' Chris Kaman rebounded and passed to Brunson, who was intentionally fouled and made both free throws. Los Angeles allowed Joel Przybilla an unchallenged dunk as time expired — one of only three baskets by the Trail Blazers in the final 7:43. A

Pittsburgh's Chevon Troutman reaches in to force a jump ball against Georgetown center Roy Hibbert in the second half on Wednesday.

# Georgetown hands Pitt another upset

BY ALAN ROBINSON The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Jamie Dixon learned what longtime Pitt coach Paul Evans often discovered during the 1980s and 1990s: Sometimes having better talent isn't enough against a John Thompson-coached Georgetown team.

Brandon Bowman drove the lane for the go-ahead basket with 8.4 seconds remaining and No. 16 Pittsburgh then failed twice to get off a shot, falling 67-64 to the Hoyas on Wednesday night in the Panthers' second upset loss in as many games.

Pitt followed up a stunning 69-66 loss Sunday to Bucknell with one nearly as surprising only its third in 46 home games since the Petersen Events Center opened for the 2002-03 season. Georgetown (9-3) had lost eight

consecutive Big East games dating to last season, only to win its conference debut under new coach John Thompson III — the son of the Hoyas coach who was 24-10 against Pitt from 1982-99.

The Hoyas hit nine of 12 three-point attempts during the first half, when they once led 28-9, then ran their Princeton-style offense featuring numerous back-door cuts and quick

passes to perfection in the second half, "Obviously, I'm happy," Thompson said. "The ball bounced our way the last two minutes. It was a big win against a terrific team."

And a struggling Pitt team, too. The Panthers (10-2), who have shared or won the last three Big East regular-season titles, lost two in a row for the first time since Notre Dame and Miainbeat them during a four-day span in January 2002. They hadn't lost consecutive home games since Feb. 2001 losses to Notre Dame and Georgetown.

"This really hurts, to lose two straight games at home," said Chris Taft, who led Pitt with 20 points. "We've got to find a way to get through."

Ashamti Cook hit four of Georgetown's 11 three-pointers and scored 23 points, including a free throw with 5.2 seconds left after Pitt's Chevon Troutman threw the ball away on a long pass.

"He kept us in it on some possessions where we could have crumbled," Thompson said. "He hit some shots to stop runs and keep us in the game." Pitt got the ball back with a

Pitt got the ball back with a chance to tie it after Cook missed his second free throw, but Antonio Graves was tied up near midcourt and the Panthers never got a shot off.

Bowman scored 18 and reserve Darrel Owens had 11 for the Hoyas, who were 16-point underdogs despite winning their previous four

Pitt's Carl Krauser had 12 of his 15 points during a furious first-half flurry, but the Panthers couldn't hold on after turning the 19-point deficit into a 59-53 lead with five minutes remaining.

Pitt's last three opponents have shot 50 percent or better, something only one of Pitt's 36 opponents did last season.

## **BC** stuns **UConn**, off to best start in history



Boston College's Jared Dudley takes the ball away from Connecticut's Charley Villanueva in the second half Wednesday. Dudley paced the Eagles with 17 points.

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

HARTFORD, Conn.—Connecticut's latest loss befuddled coach Jim Calhoun. No. 25 Boston College (12-0, 1-0 Big East) outmuscled and outhustled the defending NCAA champs in a 75-70 win Wednesday night to jump out to their best start in school history.

"We're missing something," Calhoun said. "Leadership? Ability to listen? Sometimes kids come off championship seasons and a couple guys have answers. Unfortunately they should have more questions."

Craig Smith scored 16 points including the game-winning free throw with 35 seconds left to lift the Eagles to their third win in 12 meetings at the Hartford Civic Center and first since 1987.

"We did not look like a Connecticut team," Calhoun said. "We gave away that opportunity of having the crowd and allowed BC to take the game away from us."

In foul trouble for most of the game, Smith made the most of his 16 minutes. The 250-pound forward scored 16 points for Boston College, which joins the Atlantic coast Conference next year.

"We're not going to let people come and beat on us. We're going to put the beating on them," Smith said. Jared Dudley led the Eagles with 17 points and was able to penetrate the lane time and again against the much bigger

frontcourt of 10th-ranked UConn (8-2, 0-1).

Josh Boone dominated inside for UConn with 18 points and 15 boards, but it was the

Eagles' frontcourt that prevailed. Although the Huskies outrebounded BC 44-40, the Eagles scored 23 second-chance points on just 14 offensive rebounds.

"They're bigger, they're longer, they're athletic, but when it comes to banging I don't think they want any part of that," Smith said.

Neutralized in the first half by foul trouble, Smith played just six minutes and had two points. He made up for it in a hurry in the second. He scored 10 points in the first 5½ minutes to help the Eagles rally from a seven-point halftime deficit.

"We are a great team with [Smith], but we've played enough games without him to know how to play," BC coach Al Skinner said. "It was really a team effort."

The Eagles went up for good at 47-46 on a breakaway layup by Louis Hinnant and extended the lead to 10 over the next six minutes.

Boone brought the Huskies back, scoring seven points in a 13-6 run. UConn final-

ly caught up with 56 seconds left when Rashad Anderson hit two of three free throws to pull even at 70. Smith was fouled on the next possession, sinking both shots to ice the game.

Anderson, UConn's three-point specialist, finished with 15 points.

"This was the start of league play, neighborhood brawls," Calhoun said. "I was excited about the game and I thought we were ready. We may have been ready physically, but we certainly weren't ready men-

UConn has dominated the series the last 17 years, winning 28 of 31 meetings, but it's unlikely they'll meet in the future because bad feelings exist over the Eagles' dealings with the ACC.

The fans clearly made their opinions known, holding up farewell signs such as "Betrayal College." Some in the sellout crowd of 16,294 sarcastically waved good riddance when the final buzzer sounded.

The Eagles didn't notice — they were too busy celebrating.

"One league game is just as important as another whether it's UConn, Syracuse or Rutgers," Skinner said, "Maybe in March it will have some significance, but right now you've got to win as many games as you nossibly can."

## Healed Horton sparks Michigan in Big Ten opener

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Daniel Horton returned from a six-game absence and made an immediate impact for Michigan. Returning to the court after

Returning to the court after missing six games with a knee injury, Horton scored 13 points,

Top 25

handed out two assists and provided key leadership down the

stretch to help Michigan beat No. 14 Iowa 65-63 Wednesday

night.

Horton didn't start, but entered the game midway through the first half and promptly hit his

first shot, a nifty turnaround jumper from the top of the key.
"I just wanted to come in and contribute, and I guess I came in and ... gave the team a shot in the arm, but that wasn't my goal," said Horton, who strained a knee

"It felt good to get a big win on the road and to get back out there and play. Its a good feeling right now for everybody."

The victory is the third straight for the Wolverines (9-5, 1-0 Big Ten) and snapped the Hawkeyes' nine game winning streak. The Wolverines led most of the

The Wolverines led most of the way but had to fight off a second-half rally to beat Iowa for the third time in the last four games.

The Hawkeyes (12-2, 0-1) squandered several chances to tie or take the lead in the final minute.

Pierre Pierce, who led Iowa with 15 points, was fouled by Dion Harris on a three-point attempt with 1.6 seconds to go, but missed the first of three free throws.

Greg Brunner, Adam Haluska and Jeff Horner each finished with 14, but the Hawkeyes struggled all night with shooting, rebounding and capitalizing on Michigan's 25 turnovers.

"Obviously a frustrating way to start our Big Ten season," said Iowa coach Steve Alford. "It's my responsibility to make sure the team was ready, and they obviously weren't ready. I take full responsibility for that."

No. 1 Illinois 84, Ohio State 65: James Augustine tied his career high with 21 points as No. 1 Illinois all but abandoned its outside game for inside jumpers and layups in its Big Ten openert.

The Illini (15-0) led by only six at halftime, but used an 13-7 run at the start of the second half to build their lead to 12 with 14:14 to go. Ohio State (11-3) never got closer than seven after that and Illinois outscored the Buckeyes 19-5 in the final 10:20.

No. 2 Kansas 65, Texas A&M 60: Alex Galindo hit a tiebreaking three-pointer, and Christian Moody and Aaron Miles each made two free throws in the final seconds to lift host Kansas.

The Aggies (11-1) came in as 17-point underdogs despite being one of the country's last unbeaten teams. But Kansas (10-0), without injured star Wayne Simien, struggled all night against the Aggies aggressive, pressing defense. Texas A&M, which has lost 18 straight regular-season conference games, held the Jayhawks to 41 nervent shooting.

No. 5 Duke 59, Princeton 46: At Durham, N.C., J.J. Redick made all 14 of his free throws and scored 21 points, helping the Blue Devils celebrate the 65th anniversary of Cameron Indoor Stadium in style.

Shelden Williams had 14 rebounds for the Blue Devils, who improved to 10-0 for the fourth time in five seasons.

No. 6 Syracuse 79, St. John's 65: At New York, Hakim Warrick scored 22 points and Gerry McNamara added 19 for Syracuse, which had one of its best shooting games of the season. The Orange (14-1) opened Big

East play with their 36th consecutive win over an intrastate opponent.

No. 8 Kentucky 79, South

Carolina 75: Kelenna Azubuike made four three-pointers and finished with 21 points as Kentucky held on against visiting South Camlina

Chuck Hayes added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Kentucky (10-1), which won its league opener for the 17th time in 18 years. South Carolina (8-4, 0-1) has

lost three games to ranked teams this season, having also dropped four-point road decisions at Kansas and No. 16 Pittsburgh.

Houston 70, No. 17 Louisville 67: At Houston, Andre Owens scored 27 points, including a three-pointer for the go-ahead basket with 21 seconds left.

It was Houston's first win over a Top 25 team since beating then-No. 25 Tulsa on Dec. 4, 1996. Freshman Juan Palacios had 20 points for Louisville, which lost to Houston for the first time in nine meetings.

No. 18 Mississippi State 90, Auburn 53: At Starkville, Miss., Lawrence Roberts had 19 points and 15 rebounds, and Mississippi State won the teams' Southeastern Conference opener.

Winsome Frazier and Jamall Edmonson each had 12 points for the Bulldogs (13-2), the defending regular-season champions who shot 50 percent from the field to win their eighth straight over Auburn.

Vanderbilt 70, No. 19 Alabama 56: At Nashville, Tenn., Mario Moore shot 4-for-5 from three-point range and finished with 16 points.

Jason Holwerda also scored 16 points for the Commodores (10-4, 1-0 SEC), who won their sixth



Kansas forward Christian Moody, left, and Texas A&M's Chris Walker battle for a rebound during the first half Wednesday in Lawrence, Kan.

straight overall and beat the Crimson Tide (11-3, 0-1) for the fourth time in a row.

No. 20 Michigan St 84, Penn St 58: Alan Anderson scored 17 points and Shamnon Brown added 16 to lead the visiting Spartans in the Big Ten opener for both teams. Michigan State (9-2) shot 30-for-59 for the game and 16-for-17 from the free-throw line in the Spartans' sixth straight

Villanova 84, No. 21 West Virginia 46: At Villanova, Pa., Allan Ray scored 26 points and Mike Nardi added 18 to lead Villanova, snapping the Mountaineers' season-opening 10-game winning

streak.

Curtis Sumpter added 13 points and Randy Foye had 11 for the Wildcats (8-1), who won their seventh straight.

D'or Fisher scored 14 points and Tyrone Sally added 10 for the Mountaineers (10-1).

No. 24 George Washington 71, La Salle 42: At Washington, T.J. Thompson had 16 points, Pops Mensah-Bonsu had 12 points, 14 rebounds and four blocks, and Mike Hall had nine points and a career-high 17 rebounds for George Washington (9-2, 1-0 Atlanti 10), who took a double-digit lead 12 minutes in and was never threatened.

## **SPORTS**



Yankees, Randy Johnson reach preliminary agreement on two-year, \$32 million contract extension, Page 29

## **Schottenheimer's nemesis**

Playoffs have been unkind to Chargers' veteran coach

> BY BERNIE WILSON The associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Marty Schottenheimer has never had a big problem getting his teams to the playoffs.

When they get there, bad things happen.

Yes, Schottenheimer is the winningest active coach with 177 regular-season wins in 18½ seasons with four franchises, including 12 with his surprising San Diego Chargers this season.

When the calendar changes to January, though, it isn't as pretty. Schottenheimer is just 5-11 in

the playoffs. He's been one-and-done seven times, including his past three trips. None of his 11 playoff teams have reached the Super Bowl.

His defeats have ranged from epic to mystifying.

Who could forget "The Drive" and "The Fumble," consecutive AFC championship games in which his Cleveland Browns came so close to a Super Bowl, only to be denied by John Elway and the Denver Broncos?

When Schottenheimer moved to Kansas City, he made it back to the AFC title game once — and lost. He also had two teams go 13-3 and look up home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, only to be stunned by wild-card teams in the divisional round.

Now the AFC West champion Chargers get to leave their imprint on Schottenheimer's postseason record, for good or bad. They're favored over the visiting wild-card New York Jets on Saturday night.

"My approach is, you can't hide from it," Schottenheimer said. "If is what it is. We have not been nearly as effective in the playoffs as I would like to have been, but there again, there's no re-do's. And we lost some tough ones, some close ones."

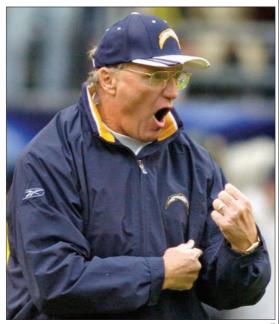
some close ones."

His most momentous loss came on Jan. 11, 1987, in Cleveland.

With the Browns leading 20-13

With the Browns leading 20-13 and 5:32 left in regulation, Elway drove the Broncos 98 yards on 15 plays in 4:55 for the tying touchdown, then led them to the winning field goal in overtime.

"It was a terrific football game." Schottenheimer said.



Marty Schottenheimer, above, has the most regular-season victories among active NFL coaches with 177, but the San Diego Chargers' coach is just 5-11 in the postseason. His teams have been beaten in their first playoff game seven times, including the past three, and have never played in a Super Bowl.



Under Schottenheimer, the Kansas City Chiefs twice were the top seed in the AFC but lost both times in their first playoff games.



The play he remembers most is a third-and-18 just after Elway was sacked.

"He put Steve Watson in motion," Schottenheimer said. "He was in the shotgun. When the ball was snapped it was snapped early and it hit Steve Watson in the hin but it was a glancing blow and John had to turn and go field the

snap.
"I thought shortly afterward
that if Watson had been two inchses closer to where he started rather than where he was going, the
ball would have hit him dead in
the hip and would have been rolling around on the ground on third
down, and even if they got it, it
would have been fourth down."
Instead, Elway completed a

20-yard pass to Mark Jackson to keep "The Drive" alive. A year later, in Denver, 175-pound Broncos cornerback Jeremiah Castille stripped the

ball from running back Earnest



A breakdown of Saturday's NFL playoff matchups

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Suns back up win in Minnesota with a triumph in Houston

Page 33



No. 10 UConn stopped by undefeated Boston College

Page 35

After 2-14 year, 49ers fire Erickson, Donahue Page 31

